

U.S. Department of Justice
Washington, DC 20530

OMB No. 1124-0002; Expires April 30, 2017

**Supplemental Statement
Pursuant to the Foreign Agents Registration Act of
1938, as amended**

For Six Month Period Ending 10/31/14
(Insert date)

I - REGISTRANT

1. (a) Name of Registrant (b) Registration No.

Friends of Sinn Fein INC

5006

- (c) Business Address(es) of Registrant

420 Lexington Ave., Suite 300
New York, NY 10170

2. Has there been a change in the information previously furnished in connection with the following?

- (a) If an individual:

(1) Residence address(es)	Yes <input type="checkbox"/>	No <input type="checkbox"/>
(2) Citizenship	Yes <input type="checkbox"/>	No <input type="checkbox"/>
(3) Occupation	Yes <input type="checkbox"/>	No <input type="checkbox"/>

- (b) If an organization:

(1) Name	Yes <input type="checkbox"/>	No <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
(2) Ownership or control	Yes <input type="checkbox"/>	No <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
(3) Branch offices	Yes <input type="checkbox"/>	No <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>

- (c) Explain fully all changes, if any, indicated in Items (a) and (b) above.

IF THE REGISTRANT IS AN INDIVIDUAL, OMIT RESPONSE TO ITEMS 3, 4, AND 5(a).

3. If you have previously filed Exhibit C¹, state whether any changes therein have occurred during this 6 month reporting period.

Yes ☐ No ☒

If yes, have you filed an amendment to the Exhibit C? Yes ☐ No ☐

If no, please attach the required amendment.

¹ The Exhibit C, for which no printed form is provided, consists of a true copy of the charter, articles of incorporation, association, and by laws of a registrant that is an organization. (A waiver of the requirement to file an Exhibit C may be obtained for good cause upon written application to the Assistant Attorney General, National Security Division, U.S. Department of Justice, Washington, DC 20530.)

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4. (a) Have any persons ceased acting as partners, officers, directors or similar officials of the registrant during this 6 month reporting period?Yes ☐ No ☒

If yes, furnish the following information:

Name	Position	Date Connection Ended
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(b) Have any persons become partners, officers, directors or similar officials during this 6 month reporting period?Yes ☐ No ☒

If yes, furnish the following information:

Name	Residence Address	Citizenship	Position	Date Assumed
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5. (a) Has any person named in Item 4(b) rendered services directly in furtherance of the interests of any foreign principal?Yes ☒ No ☐

If yes, identify each such person and describe the service rendered.

James P. Cullen has rendered pro bono services on behalf of a foreign principal, Sinn Fein, from and after his date of appointment as chairperson and president of Friends of Sinn Fein inc.

(b) During this six month reporting period, has the registrant hired as employees or in any other capacity, any persons who rendered or will render services to the registrant directly in furtherance of the interests of any foreign principal(s) in other than a clerical or secretarial, or in a related or similar capacity? Yes ☐ No ☒

Name	Residence Address	Citizenship	Position	Date Assumed
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(c) Have any employees or individuals, who have filed a short form registration statement, terminated their employment or connection with the registrant during this 6 month reporting period? Yes ☐ No ☒

If yes, furnish the following information:

Name	Position or Connection	Date Terminated
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(d) Have any employees or individuals, who have filed a short form registration statement, terminated their connection with any foreign principal during this 6 month reporting period? Yes ☐ No ☒

If yes, furnish the following information:

Name	Position or Connection	Foreign Principal	Date Terminated
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6. Have short form registration statements been filed by all of the persons named in Items 5(a) and 5(b) of the supplemental statement?Yes ☒ No ☐

If no, list names of persons who have not filed the required statement.

II - FOREIGN PRINCIPAL

7. Has your connection with any foreign principal ended during this 6 month reporting period? Yes ☐ No ☒
If yes, furnish the following information:

Foreign Principal

Date of Termination

8. Have you acquired any new foreign principal(s)² during this 6 month reporting period? Yes ☐ No ☒
If yes, furnish the following information:

Name and Address of Foreign Principal(s)

Date Acquired

9. In addition to those named in Items 7 and 8, if any, list foreign principal(s)² whom you continued to represent during the 6 month reporting period.

Sinn Fein

10. (a) Have you filed exhibits for the newly acquired foreign principal(s), if any, listed in Item 8?

Exhibit A³ Yes ☐ No ☐

Exhibit B⁴ Yes ☐ No ☐

If no, please attach the required exhibit.

- (b) Have there been any changes in the Exhibits A and B previously filed for any foreign principal whom you represented during this six month period? Yes ☐ No ☒

If yes, have you filed an amendment to these exhibits? Yes ☐ No ☐

If no, please attach the required amendment.

² The term "foreign principal" includes, in addition to those defined in Section 1(b) of the Act, an individual organization any of whose activities are directly or indirectly supervised, directed, controlled, financed, or subsidized in whole or in major part by a foreign government, foreign political party, foreign organization or foreign individual. (See Rule 100(a) (9)). A registrant who represents more than one foreign principal is required to list in the statements he files under the Act only those principals for whom he is not entitled to claim exemption under Section 3 of the Act. (See Rule 208.)

³ The Exhibit A, which is filed on Form NSD-3, sets forth the information required to be disclosed concerning each foreign principal.

⁴ The Exhibit B, which is filed on Form NSD-4, sets forth the information concerning the agreement or understanding between the registrant and the

III - ACTIVITIES

11. During this 6 month reporting period, have you engaged in any activities for or rendered any services to any foreign principal named in Items 7, 8, or 9 of this statement? Yes ☒ No ☐

If yes, identify each foreign principal and describe in full detail your activities and services:

See attached schedules, including Itineraries

12. During this 6 month reporting period, have you on behalf of any foreign principal engaged in political activity⁵ as defined below? Yes ☒ No ☐

If yes, identify each such foreign principal and describe in full detail all such political activity, indicating, among other things, the relations, interests and policies sought to be influenced and the means employed to achieve this purpose. If the registrant arranged, sponsored or delivered speeches, lectures or radio and TV broadcasts, give details as to dates, places of delivery, names of speakers and subject matter.

See attached Itineraries

13. In addition to the above described activities, if any, have you engaged in activity on your own behalf which benefits your foreign principal(s)? Yes ☐ No ☒

If yes, describe fully.

⁵ "Political activity," as defined in Section 1(o) of the Act, means any activity that the person engaging in believes will, or that the person intends to, in any way influence any

IV - FINANCIAL INFORMATION**14. (a) RECEIPTS-MONIES**

During this 6 month reporting period, have you received from any foreign principal named in Items 7, 8, or 9 of this statement, or from any other source, for or in the interests of any such foreign principal, any contributions, income or money either as compensation or otherwise? Yes ☒ No ☐

If no, explain why.

If yes, set forth below in the required detail and separately for each foreign principal an account of such monies.⁶

Date	From Whom	Purpose	Amount
See Details of donations received on attached schedules A1, A2 and Ex D			

Total

(b) RECEIPTS - FUNDRAISING CAMPAIGN

During this 6 month reporting period, have you received, as part of a fundraising campaign⁷, any money on behalf of any foreign principal named in Items 7, 8, or 9 of this statement? Yes ☒ No ☐

If yes, have you filed an Exhibit D⁸ to your registration? Yes ☒ No ☐

If yes, indicate the date the Exhibit D was filed. Date Attached

(c) RECEIPTS-THINGS OF VALUE

During this 6 month reporting period, have you received any thing of value⁹ other than money from any foreign principal named in Items 7, 8, or 9 of this statement, or from any other source, for or in the interests of any such foreign principal?

Yes ☐ No ☒

If yes, furnish the following information:

Foreign Principal	Date Received	Thing of Value	Purpose
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^{6, 7} A registrant is required to file an Exhibit D if he collects or receives contributions, loans, moneys, or other things of value for a foreign principal, as part of a fundraising campaign. (See Rule 201(c)).

⁸ An Exhibit D, for which no printed form is provided, sets forth an account of money collected or received as a result of a fundraising campaign and transmitted for a foreign principal.

⁹ Things of value include but are not limited to gifts, interest free loans, expense free travel, favored stock purchases, exclusive rights, favored treatment over competitors,

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15. (a) DISBURSEMENTS-MONIES

During this 6 month reporting period, have you

(1) disbursed or expended monies in connection with activity on behalf of any foreign principal named in Items 7, 8, or 9 of this statement? Yes ☒ No ☐(2) transmitted monies to any such foreign principal? Yes ☐ No ☒

If no, explain in full detail why there were no disbursements made on behalf of any foreign principal.

No request for transmittal of funds or payments overseas was received from our foreign principal in the current reporting period

If yes, set forth below in the required detail and separately for each foreign principal an account of such monies, including monies transmitted, if any, to each foreign principal.

Date	To Whom	Purpose	Amount
	See attached schedule E for list of expenses paid on behalf of registrant and Sinn Fein		

Total

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(b) DISBURSEMENTS-THINGS OF VALUE

During this 6 month reporting period, have you disposed of anything of value¹⁰ other than money in furtherance of or in connection with activities on behalf of any foreign principal named in Items 7, 8, or 9 of this statement?

Yes ☐No ☒

If yes, furnish the following information:

Date	Recipient	Foreign Principal	Thing of Value	Purpose
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(c) DISBURSEMENTS-POLITICAL CONTRIBUTIONS

During this 6 month reporting period, have you from your own funds and on your own behalf either directly or through any other person, made any contributions of money or other things of value¹¹ in connection with an election to any political office, or in connection with any primary election, convention, or caucus held to select candidates for political office?

Yes ☐No ☐

If yes, furnish the following information:

Date	Amount or Thing of Value	Political Organization or Candidate	Location of Event
		Jim Cullen personally contributed \$3,000 to the Tom Wolf for Governor Campaign (Pennsylvania) on May 2, 2014	

^{10, 11} Things of value include but are not limited to gifts, interest free loans, expense free travel, favored stock purchases, exclusive rights, favored treatment over competitors, "kickbacks," and the like.

V - INFORMATIONAL MATERIALS

16. (a) During this 6 month reporting period, did you prepare, disseminate or cause to be disseminated any informational materials?¹²

Yes ☒ No ☐

If Yes, go to Item 17.

(b) If you answered No to Item 16(a), do you disseminate any material in connection with your registration?

Yes ☐ No ☐

If Yes, please forward the materials disseminated during the six month period to the Registration Unit for review.

17. Identify each such foreign principal.

Sinn Fein

18. During this 6 month reporting period, has any foreign principal established a budget or allocated a specified sum of money to finance your activities in preparing or disseminating informational materials? Yes ☐ No ☒

If yes, identify each such foreign principal, specify amount, and indicate for what period of time.

19. During this 6 month reporting period, did your activities in preparing, disseminating or causing the dissemination of informational materials include the use of any of the following:

- ☐ Radio or TV broadcasts ☒ Magazine or newspaper ☐ Motion picture films ☒ Letters or telegrams
☐ Advertising campaigns ☒ Press releases ☒ Pamphlets or other publications ☒ Lectures or speeches
☐ Other (specify) _____

Electronic Communications

☒ Email

☒ Website URL(s): fosf.org

☒ Social media websites URL(s): facebook.com/fofsusa

☐ Other (specify) _____

20. During this 6 month reporting period, did you disseminate or cause to be disseminated informational materials among any of the following groups:

- | | | |
|---|--|--|
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Public officials | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Newspapers | <input type="checkbox"/> Libraries |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Legislators | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Editors | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Educational institutions |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Government agencies | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Civic groups or associations | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Nationality groups |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Other (specify) _____ | | |

21. What language was used in the informational materials:

☒ English

☐ Other (specify) _____

22. Did you file with the Registration Unit, U.S. Department of Justice a copy of each item of such informational materials disseminated or caused to be disseminated during this 6 month reporting period? Yes ☒ No ☐

23. Did you label each item of such informational materials with the statement required by Section 4(b) of the Act?

Yes ☒ No ☐

¹² The term informational materials includes any oral, visual, graphic, written, or pictorial information or matter of any kind, including that published by means of advertising, books, periodicals, newspapers, lectures, broadcasts, motion pictures, or any means or instrumentality of interstate or foreign commerce or otherwise. Informational materials disseminated by an agent of a foreign principal as part of an activity in itself exempt from registration, or an activity which by itself would not require registration, need not be filed pursuant to Section 4(b) of the Act.

VI - EXECUTION

In accordance with 28 U.S.C. § 1746, the undersigned swear(s) or affirm(s) under penalty of perjury that he/she has (they have) read the information set forth in this registration statement and the attached exhibits and that he/she is (they are) familiar with the contents thereof and that such contents are in their entirety true and accurate to the best of his/her (their) knowledge and belief, except that the undersigned make(s) no representation as to truth or accuracy of the information contained in the attached Short Form Registration Statement(s), if any, insofar as such information is not within his/her (their) personal knowledge.

(Date of signature)

(Print or type name under each signature or provide electronic signature¹³)

November 19, 2014

James P. Cullen
JAMES P. CULLEN

¹³ This statement shall be signed by the individual agent, if the registrant is an individual, or by a majority of those partners, officers, directors or persons performing similar functions, if the registrant is an organization, except that the organization can, by power of attorney, authorize one or more individuals to execute this statement on its behalf.

FRIENDS OF SINN FEIN, INC.

Registration No. 5006

Exhibit D

The Attached Statement is filed as an amendment to items 8(a) and 9(a) of the Registration Statement previously filed by the Registrant. It constitutes the account of all money collected and deposited from May 1, 2014 to October 31, 2014 as a result of the Registrant's fund-raising campaign and other income sources. Funds transmitted to the foreign principal if any during the reporting period are listed in Schedule E-1.

All monies received were for the purpose of supporting the activities and purposes of Sinn Fein as a democratic political party engaged in Ireland and in many countries throughout the world in promoting the Irish Peace Process by social welfare, political and educational activities.

During this reporting period, Friends of Sinn Fein, Inc. had a total of \$6971.48 in receipts. This total included check donations, early payment discounts and miscellaneous revenue.

Schedule A-1 hereto lists individual donations in the amount of \$500 or less together with the city and state of donors.

Schedule A-2 hereto lists individual donations in the amount of more than \$500 together with the city and state of donors.

Friends of Sinn Fein Inc. has five bank accounts in New York. All funds received were deposited into the New York accounts. Schedule E reflects expenditures from the accounts in New York.

The undersigned swear or affirm that they constitute a majority of the directors and officers of Friends of Sinn Fein, Inc.; that they have read the information set forth in this Exhibit and in the schedules attached thereto and that they are familiar with the contents thereof; and that such contents are in their entirety true and accurate to the best of their knowledge and belief.

Dated: New York, New York
November 11, 2014


James Cullen, President

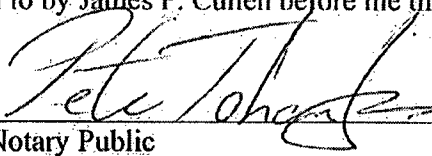

Gerard Keogh, Secretary

State of New York

Ss:

County of New York

The foregoing certification was subscribed and sworn to by James P. Cullen before me this
13th day of November, 2014.


Notary Public

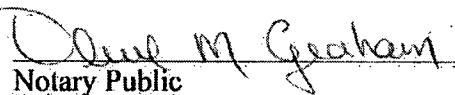
PETER TAKANTZAS
Notary Public, State of New York
Qualified in Queens County
Reg. #01TA6258596
My Comm. Exp. 03/26/2016

State of New York

Ss:

County of New York

The foregoing certification was subscribed and sworn to by Gerard Keogh before me this
17th day of November, 2014.


Notary Public

Olive M. Graham
Notary Public, State of New York
ID Number: 01GR5008932
Qualified in New York County
Commission Expires January 19, 2016

6:05 PM

11/12/14

Accrual Basis

Friends of Sinn Féin, Inc.
Account QuickReport
July through October 2014

Date	Num	Name	Name City	Name State	Amount
410 - Non-fundraiser cont. under 500					
4103 - Miscellaneous Donations					
10/16/2014	118	Birt, Thomas	Chicago	IL	25.00
10/16/2014	196	Burke, John V. (2)	New York	NY	20.00
10/16/2014	3897	Fowler, Patrick J.	Tallahassee	FL	15.00
10/16/2014	3883	Fowler, Patrick J.	Tallahassee	FL	15.00
10/16/2014	200	Burke, John V. (2)	New York	NY	20.00
10/16/2014	3916	Fowler, Patrick J.	Tallahassee	FL	15.00
10/16/2014	4837	Sullivan, Timothy	Palo Alto	CA	50.00
10/16/2014	1151	Handelman, Michele	Brooklyn	NY	10.00
Total 4103 - Miscellaneous Donations					170.00
Total 410 - Non-fundraiser cont. under 500					170.00
TOTAL					170.00

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11/12/14

Accrual Basis

Friends of Sinn Féin, Inc.
Account QuickReport
May through June 2014

Type	Date	Num	Name	Name City	Name State	Amount
410 - Non-fundraiser cont. under 500						
4103 - Miscellaneous Donations						
Deposit	6/28/2014	2531	Dockter Environmental Consulting			25.00
Deposit	6/28/2014	2927	McCloskey, James A.	Bridgeton	NJ	25.00
Deposit	6/28/2014	3848	Keenan, Gerald	Jackman	ME	25.00
Deposit	6/28/2014	1188	Desmond, Aidan J.	Birmingham	AL	100.00
Deposit	6/28/2014	4261	McCarthy, Martin K.	Chicago	IL	25.00
Deposit	6/28/2014	3552	Falconer, Gerry	Hollywood	FL	250.00
Deposit	6/28/2014	3937	Gall, Susan	Pittsburgh	PA	10.00
Deposit	6/28/2014	1369	Delaney, Ned A.	Lafayette	IN	50.00
Deposit	6/28/2014	157	Burke, John V.	Bronx	NY	20.00
Deposit	6/28/2014	3831	Fowler, Patrick J.	Tallahassee	FL	15.00
Deposit	6/28/2014	8147	Hughes, Paul J.	Sparta	NJ	15.00
Deposit	6/28/2014	3849	Fowler, Patrick J.	Tallahassee	FL	15.00
Deposit	6/28/2014	0525	Vreus, Theodoor A.			50.00
Deposit	6/28/2014	5288	Doherty, James (2)	Washington	DC	25.00
Deposit	6/28/2014	1675	Kelly, Eamon M.	New Orleans	LA	500.00
Deposit	6/28/2014	160	Burke, John V.	Bronx	NY	20.00
Deposit	6/28/2014	3883	Fowler, Patrick J.	Tallahassee	FL	15.00
Deposit	6/28/2014	51489...	Curran, Ralph	Halifax	NS	200.00
Total 4103 - Miscellaneous Donations						1,385.00
Total 410 - Non-fundraiser cont. under 500						1,385.00
TOTAL						1,385.00

SCHEDULE A2

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11/12/14

Accrual Basis

Friends of Sinn Féin, Inc.**Account QuickReport**

May through June 2014

Date	Num	Name	Name City	Name State	Amount
400 - Fundrasing Event Revenue					
4003 - US Donor over 500 Pounds					
6/28/2014	6461	Connelly & Sons Plumbing and Heat	East Meadow	NY	1,000.00
6/28/2014	6461	Connelly & Sons Plumbing and Heat	East Meadow	NY	0.00
Total 4003 - US Donor over 500 Pounds					1,000.00
Total 400 - Fundrasing Event Revenue					1,000.00
TOTAL					1,000.00

SCHEDULE A2

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11/12/14

Accrual Basis

Friends of Sinn Féin, Inc.**Account QuickReport**

July through October 2014

Date	Num	Name	Name City	Name State	Amount
400 - Fundrasing Event Revenue					
4003 - US Donor over 500 Pounds					
10/16/2014	80363	Building & Construction Trades - AFL/CIO	Washington	DC	2,000.00
Total 4003 - US Donor over 500 Pounds					2,000.00
Total 400 - Fundrasing Event Revenue					2,000.00
TOTAL					2,000.00

SCHEDULE A2

6:12 PM

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Accrual Basis

Friends of Sinn Féin, Inc.**Account QuickReport**

May through June 2014

Date	Num	Name	Name City	Name State	Amount
415 - Non-fundraiser cont. over 500					
4153 - U.S. Donations over 500 P					
5/1/2014	6867	Kane, Michael P.	Alpharetta	GA	1,000.00
Total 4153 - U.S. Donations over 500 P					1,000.00
Total 415 - Non-fundraiser cont. over 500					1,000.00
TOTAL					1,000.00

SCHEDULE E

Friends of Sinn Fein, Inc.

FARA A/C No. 100105. Reg. No. 5006

Foreign Agents Registration Act Report

Report Period:

5/1/2014

to

10/31/2014

Schedule E: Schedule of Expenses

Expenses

General and Administrative	\$ 9,922.20
Facilities Rent	\$ 9,357.59
Fundraising Event Expenses	\$ 1,100.00
Payroll & Payroll Taxes	\$ 27,030.27
Professional Services	\$ 765.00
Taxes	\$ 1,588.00
Travel Related Expenses	\$ <u>56,241.00</u>

Total Expenses for Reporting Period

\$ 106,004.06

Late October 2014 New Update

[Campaign Preview](#)[HTML Source](#)[Plain-Text Email](#)[Details](#)

Late October News Update-FOSF

[View this email in your browser](#)

Friends of Sinn Féin



Gerry Adams' response to recent allegations by Mairia Cahill:

How Republicans Dealt With Allegations Of Child Abuse

The recent allegations made by Mairia Cahill are of serious concern to myself and Sinn Féin. While I refute completely Mairia's allegations against myself and Sinn Féin it does raise the significant issue of how allegations of abuse had been handled in the past by republicans.

Abuse respects no political boundaries. It affects all classes, creeds and social groups. Women and children in the main suffers as a result. It is now accepted that one in four citizens have experienced abuse.

Our society has been extremely bad, until relatively recently, in facing up to this matter and developing the necessary responses and supports. This has been the case in both states but in

the North these failures were further exacerbated by conflict.

In conflicts civilians suffer the most, particularly women and children. This is especially the case when communities are under military occupation. During the conflict in the north many nationalist and particularly republican communities suffered grievously under British military rule. In the main since partition, these communities had never accepted unionist one party rule. They were resentful of, and oppressed in, the Orange state which rejected all attempts at reform over the decades.

After the pogroms of 1969, Internment in 1971 and Bloody Sunday in 1972 the vast majority of nationalists withdrew any consent to be governed from the Northern state, it's institutions and agencies.

The conflict itself caused widespread hurt and suffering, but so too did the absence of the structures and institutions which are the norm in peaceful, democratic societies. These citizens never had a policing service. Policing and the Legal process were subverted to the primary objective of defeating republicanism at all costs. The RUC was a quasi-military arm of the state which acted against nationalists and republicans as if we were the enemy.

In many cases the absence of a civic police service also disconnected alienated communities from the support of social services. These communities policed themselves. The vast majority of people were law abiding and decent. Strong and empowered and progressive communities emerged. New and innovative restorative justice systems were developed as part of this collective experience. But there was also, particularly in the first two decades of the conflict a more brutal form of rough justice.

Some journalists and political opponents of Sinn Féin continue to perpetuate a particular myth about life in nationalist areas of the North during the conflict. They portray republicans as having oppressed republican/nationalist communities through political control and vigilantism. This was never the case. The IRA could never have sustained itself without popular support and Sinn Féin would not have developed as we have unless we had the support of the people.

The reality of course is that a professional, accountable and impartial policing service was absent and unattainable in a society that was manifestly unjust. In many republican areas the community put pressure on the IRA - which sprang from and was sustained by the community - to fill this policing vacuum.

The IRA itself often viewed this role as a major distraction from its central function. It

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Campaign Overview | MailChimp

suspected that the RUC indulged criminals in order to tie down IRA resources and demoralise the nationalist community.

IRA 'policing' was most evident in those areas where it had strongest support. The bulk of this activity involved mediation between those in dispute, and went unreported.

However, the IRA often punished petty criminals, car thieves, burglars and drug dealers. The IRA, inevitably also made mistakes.

Despite the high standards and decency of the vast majority of IRA volunteers, IRA personnel were singularly ill-equipped to deal with these matters. This included very sensitive areas such as responding to demands to take action against rapists and child abusers. The IRA on occasion shot alleged sex offenders or expelled them.

While this may have been expedient at the time it was not appropriate. Victims were left without the necessary social service support and abusers without supervision. It ultimately failed victims and the community alike. That is a matter of profound regret for me, and many other republicans.

But these actions were of their time and reflected not only a community at war but also an attitude within Ireland which did not then understand or know as we now do, how deeply embedded abuse is in our society.

For decades the institutions of both states including successive governments, the RUC, An Garda Síochána, the courts, social services, churches and others did not deal with these matters properly.

Many senior republicans, including me, had major issues with the IRA acting as a policing agency. Martin McGuinness and I are on the public record speaking out against punishment shootings since the 1980s.

This facet of IRA activity was gradually discontinued over a long period as republican activism evolved despite sizeable and understandable opposition in some communities, which were contending with a Loyalist murder campaign alongside British military aggression and ingrained disadvantage and discrimination. They had little patience for anti-social behaviour, drug pushers, death drivers or sexual abusers.

Despite the alienation from the RUC it was the accepted de facto practice that they dealt with traffic accidents, car insurance and such matters. Incidents of rape were also reported to them in some cases and no thinking person would have made a case against that. But many victims

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Campaign Overview | MailChimp

or families of victims were reluctant to bring cases of child abuse forward. This was part of the larger problem all society and particularly victims faced at that time. But where a case emerged there was the added problem for some about reporting this to the RUC. They wanted the community or the IRA to take actions.

As society became better informed as to the issue and handling of abuse, republicans began to develop victim centred approaches, ensuring that victims received the necessary supports, counselling and advice.

As Sinn Féin developed our constituency services we also developed our policies in relation to abuse.

I advocated that we direct victims to the Social Services if they did not want to go to the RUC, in the knowledge that the Social Services could go to the RUC. In other words Republicans including the IRA, could not deal with these issues. Sinn Féin would direct people to counselling services and advise victims of legacy issues but we also told everyone that we would report all cases in which children could be at risk to the Social Services or the HSE.

Following the IRA cessation in 1994 and the developing peace process legacy cases of abuse emerged. Many of these are in the public domain. Some involved republicans. My father was an abuser. Some also may have involved IRA volunteers. Those who wish to have these cases dealt with have that right.

The recent publicity surrounding the case of Mairia Cahill has brought this particular issue to the fore in public consciousness. Mairia alleges she was raped, and that the IRA conducted an investigation into this. The IRA has long since left the scene so there is no corporate way of verifying this but it must be pointed out that this allegation was subject to a police investigation, charges were brought against some republicans who strenuously denied Mairia's allegations. They insist they tried to help her. They were all acquitted by the court.

Mairia has also accused Sinn Féin and me of engaging in a cover up. That is untrue. When I learned of the allegation that Mairia was the victim of rape I asked her grand-uncle Joe Cahill, a senior and widely respected republican, to advise her to go to the RUC. He did this but Mairia did not want to do so at that time.

When Mairia subsequently did go to the police, I co-operated with the police investigation.

Any of the other Sinn Féin representatives named by Mairia have assured me that they at all times sought to support and help her. They advised on counselling, on speaking to her own

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family or approaching social services or the police. The people she spoke to are decent, thoughtful citizens and compassionate people. There was absolutely no cover up by Sinn Féin at any level.

Sinn Féin has robust party guidelines and processes on the issues of child protection, allegations of sexual abuse and/or sexual harassment, which were adopted by An Ard Chomhairle in 2006 in line with changes to the law.

Sinn Féin adopted New Child Protection Guidelines in 2010, which were produced in consultation with the HSE and Social Services and the PSNI.

Mairia has said that there are other victims who are living in fear, and perpetrators at large who are a danger to children at this time, as a result of how republicans dealt with these issues in the past.

No one should be living in fear and no child should be at risk.

Anyone who has any information whatsoever about any child abuse should come forward to the authorities North or South and they will have the full support of Sinn Féin in so doing.

That includes Mairia Cahill, who says that there are perpetrators at large who are a danger to children at this time. ~~Whatever information she has on this she should give to the appropriate~~ authority.

Healing and rebuilding a society still emerging from conflict demands that many difficult issues will need to be faced up to and dealt with as a necessary part of putting the past behind us.

That will require a huge amount of courage, compassion and humility across our society.

How Republicans dealt with the issue of child abuse should be one of these issues, if that is what victims want. Sinn Féin will accept our responsibility in contributing to the resolution of these wrongs. We are committed to creating a society which is no longer bedevilled or haunted by the legacy of any harm or injustices. Sexual abuse is a challenge which still challenges all sections of modern Irish society.

Looking after all victims and their families is a significant and important part of building a peaceful and just society. And victims include a wider category than those killed or injured as a result of armed actions by any of the protagonists.

It includes those who were brutalised or had their lives limited or adversely affected by growing up in a society covered by war and the absence of peace, stable democratic

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growing up in a society scarred by war and the absence of agreed, stable, democratic structures and institutions.

It also includes those badly served or mistreated by the forces of the State and those badly served or mistreated by non-State actors and armed groups, including the IRA.

McGuinness appeals for common approach to achieve maximum decision-making powers





Sinn Féin MLA Martin McGuinness has appealed for a common approach with Scotland and Wales to ensure maximum decision-making powers in the three Assemblies.

Mr McGuinness was speaking after discussions between the First and deputy First Minister and their Scottish and ahead of a meeting with their Welsh counterparts.

Martin McGuinness said:

"No one should be under any illusions about the scale of the financial crisis which is facing the Executive as a direct result of the British Government's austerity agenda.

"The Block Grant has been raided every year since the Tory-led coalition came into power in Westminster.

~~"But there is worse still to come. The Tories have made it abundantly clear that they are ideologically committed to dismantling the welfare state and the destruction of public services. They intend to slash the North's budget even further in the years ahead.~~

~~"Scotland and Wales are facing the same challenges and these discussions with Alex Salmond and Carwyn Jones provide an opportunity to agree a joint approach to the challenges ahead.~~

~~"There is no reason why we cannot do that because there is already a great deal of common ground between ourselves, the Welsh and the Scottish." ENDS/CRIOCH~~

Sinn Féin Leader Gerry Adams TD has apologized to victims of abuse who were let down or failed by the IRA's inability to resolve these issues.

He said that those who wish should come forward now and report complaints to the appropriate authorities, North or South.

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Mr Adams rejected allegations that Sinn Féin was involved in any cover-up of such issues and said the issue had been politicised in the Dáil chamber by Sinn Féin's opponents.

Speaking in the Dáil today, Gerry Adams said:

"I am mindful that there are victims and families affected by abuse watching us today. Sexual abuse and abuse of any kind is wrong. The abuse of a child is a particularly heinous crime. The consequences for victims and their families are devastating. We know this having seen the human cost of abuse right across Irish society.

"I have set out the circumstances in the North when there was no democratic, civic policing service. The IRA sought to deal with some cases of abuse when asked to do so by families and victims. While IRA Volunteers were acting in good faith, the IRA was ill equipped to deal with such matters.

"IRA actions against sex abusers failed victims. That is a matter of profound regret for me and other republicans. I am acutely conscious that there may be victims who were let down or failed by the IRA's inability to resolve these issues.

"As Uachtarán Shinn Féin, I want to apologise to those victims.

"Those who wish should come forward now and report their complaint to the appropriate authorities – An Garda Síochána or the HSE in the south, or the PSNI or Social Services in the North. They will have Sinn Féin's full support in doing so.

"Secrecy has surrounded abuse in Ireland. It was taboo to discuss, and some victims were very fearful to disclose. The only way to face this problem is to support victims, and to empower them to speak out. To cover up child abuse is to deny the basic humanity of the victim and to shield the perpetrator. It is an unthinkable act of cruelty.

"Sinn Féin has not engaged in a cover-up of child abuse as some of our political enemies cynically suggest. This accusation is a slur on thousands of decent people.

"Republicans are no different to any other Irish citizens. Like most other parents we do our best to protect our children, to keep them safe. Republicans have learned, like every other section of society that ongoing vigilance and believing children when they disclose is essential. Republicans, like everyone else know that reporting quickly and to the right channels is the way to seek and achieve justice."

Mr Adams asked the Taoiseach to accept that such difficult issues need to be dealt with

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in a victim-centred way by the appropriate authorities and not politicised as they have been in the Dáil chamber.

Referring to Enda Kenny's meeting today with Máiría Cahill, the Sinn Féin Leader said that all those Sinn Féin representatives who supported Máiría believe that she has been a victim of abuse and suffered trauma.

He went on:

"However Máiría has made some grievous allegations against myself and named Sinn Féin representatives. I and all the others refute those allegations – allegations that are now embellished and reported as fact.

"Taoiseach these matters were addressed in the courts. Four people were charged and acquitted in a court of law in relation to these allegations. You have yet to meet with me to address these allegations.

"Taoiseach having met with Máiría is it not right and proper that you meet with myself and the other Sinn Féin members to hear of their experience of trying to help Máiría, to hear of their support and the advice they offered? Is that not right and proper before you rush to judgment?"

The Taoiseach, in his response agreed to Mr Adams' request to meet with him and other Sinn Féin members to hear of their experience of trying to help Máiría Cahill.

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GA Response to Cahill Allegations

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Gerry Adams Responds to Allegations by Mairia Cahill

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In response to the recent allegations by Mairia Cahill, Gerry Adams has issued the following statement:

How Republicans Dealt With Allegations Of Child Abuse

The recent allegations made by Mairia Cahill are of serious concern to myself and Sinn Féin. While I refute completely Mairia's allegations against myself and Sinn Féin it does raise the significant issue of how allegations of abuse had been handled in the past by republicans.

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Abuse respects no political boundaries. It affects all classes, creeds and social groups. Women and children in the main suffers as a result. It is now accepted that one in four citizens have experienced abuse.

Our society has been extremely bad, until relatively recently, in facing up to this matter and developing the necessary responses and supports. This has been the case in both states but in the North these failures were further exacerbated by conflict.

In conflicts civilians suffer the most, particularly women and children. This is especially the case when communities are under military occupation. During the conflict in the north many nationalist and particularly republican communities suffered grievously under British military rule. In the main since partition, these communities had never accepted unionist one party rule. They were resentful of, and oppressed in, the Orange state which rejected all attempts at reform over the decades.

After the pogroms of 1969, Internment in 1971 and Bloody Sunday in 1972 the vast majority of nationalists withdrew any consent to be governed from the Northern state, it's institutions and agencies.

The conflict itself caused widespread hurt and suffering, but so too did the absence of the structures and institutions which are the norm in peaceful, democratic societies. These citizens never had a policing service. Policing and the Legal process were subverted to the primary objective of defeating republicanism at all costs. The RUC was a quasi-military arm of the state which acted against nationalists and republicans as if we were the enemy.

In many cases the absence of a civic police service also disconnected alienated communities from the support of social services. These communities policed themselves. The vast majority of people were law abiding and decent. Strong and empowered and progressive communities emerged. New and innovative restorative justice systems were developed as part of this collective experience. But there was also, particularly in the first two decades of the conflict a more brutal form of rough justice.

Some journalists and political opponents of Sinn Féin continue to perpetuate a particular myth about life in nationalist areas of the North during the conflict. They portray republicans as having oppressed republican/nationalist communities through political control and vigilance. This was never the case. The IRA could never have

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political control and vigilantism. This was never the case. The IRA could never have sustained itself without popular support and Sinn Féin would not have developed as we have unless we had the support of the people.

The reality of course is that a professional, accountable and impartial policing service was absent and unattainable in a society that was manifestly unjust. In many republican areas the community put pressure on the IRA - which sprang from and was sustained by the community - to fill this policing vacuum.

The IRA itself often viewed this role as a major distraction from its central function. It suspected that the RUC indulged criminals in order to tie down IRA resources and demoralise the nationalist community.

IRA 'policing' was most evident in those areas where it had strongest support. The bulk of this activity involved mediation between those in dispute, and went unreported.

However, the IRA often punished petty criminals, car thieves, burglars and drug dealers. The IRA, inevitably also made mistakes.

Despite the high standards and decency of the vast majority of IRA volunteers, IRA personnel were singularly ill-equipped to deal with these matters. This included very sensitive areas such as responding to demands to take action against rapists and child abusers. The IRA on occasion shot alleged sex offenders or expelled them.

While this may have been expedient at the time it was not appropriate. Victims were left without the necessary social service support and abusers without supervision. It ultimately failed victims and the community alike. That is a matter of profound regret for me, and many other republicans.

But these actions were of their time and reflected not only a community at war but also an attitude within Ireland which did not then understand or know as we now do, how deeply embedded abuse is in our society.

For decades the institutions of both states including successive governments, the RUC, An Garda Síochána, the courts, social services, churches and others did not deal with these matters properly.

Many senior republicans, including me, had major issues with the IRA acting as a policing agency. Martin McGuinness and I are on the public record speaking out against punishment shootings since the 1980s.

This facet of IRA activity was gradually discontinued over a long period as republican activism evolved despite sizeable and understandable opposition in some communities, which were contending with a Loyalist murder campaign alongside British military aggression and ingrained disadvantage and discrimination. They had little patience for anti-social behaviour, drug pushers, death drivers or sexual abusers.

Despite the alienation from the RUC it was the accepted de facto practice that they dealt with traffic accidents, car insurance and such matters. Incidents of rape were also reported to them in some cases and no thinking person would have made a case against that. But many victims or families of victims were reluctant to bring cases of child abuse forward. This was part of the larger problem all society and particularly victims faced at that time. But where a case emerged there was the added problem for some about reporting this to the RUC. They wanted the community or the IRA to take actions.

As society became better informed as to the issue and handling of abuse, republicans began to develop victim centred approaches, ensuring that victims received the necessary supports, counselling and advice.

As Sinn Féin developed our constituency services we also developed our policies in relation to abuse.

I advocated that we direct victims to the Social Services if they did not want to go to the RUC, in the knowledge that the Social Services could go to the RUC. In other words Republicans including the IRA, could not deal with these issues. Sinn Féin would direct people to counselling services and advise victims of legacy issues but we also told everyone that we would report all cases in which children could be at risk to the Social Services or the HSE.

Following the IRA cessation in 1994 and the developing peace process legacy cases of abuse emerged. Many of these are in the public domain. Some involved republicans. My father was an abuser. Some also may have involved IRA volunteers. Those who wish to have these cases dealt with have that right.

The recent publicity surrounding the case of Máiría Cahill has brought this particular issue to the fore in public consciousness. Máiría alleges she was raped, and that the IRA conducted an investigation into this. The IRA has long since left the scene so

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there is no corporate way of verifying this but it must be pointed out that this allegation was subject to a police investigation, charges were brought against some republicans who strenuously denied Máiría's allegations. They insist they tried to help her. They were all acquitted by the court.

Máiría has also accused Sinn Féin and me of engaging in a cover up. That is untrue. When I learned of the allegation that Máiría was the victim of rape I asked her grand-uncle Joe Cahill, a senior and widely respected republican, to advise her to go to the RUC. He did this but Máiría did not want to do so at that time.

When Máiría subsequently did go to the police, I co-operated with the police investigation.

Any of the other Sinn Féin representatives named by Máiría have assured me that they at all times sought to support and help her. They advised on counselling, on speaking to her own family or approaching social services or the police. The people she spoke to are decent, thoughtful citizens and compassionate people. There was absolutely no cover up by Sinn Féin at any level.

Sinn Féin has robust party guidelines and processes on the issues of child protection, allegations of sexual abuse and/or sexual harassment, which were adopted by An Ard Chomhairle in 2006 in line with changes to the law.

Sinn Féin adopted New Child Protection Guidelines in 2010, which were produced in consultation with the HSE and Social Services and the PSNI.

Máiría has said that there are other victims who are living in fear, and perpetrators at large who are a danger to children at this time, as a result of how republicans dealt with these issues in the past.

No one should be living in fear and no child should be at risk.

Anyone who has any information whatsoever about any child abuse should come forward to the authorities North or South and they will have the full support of Sinn Féin in so doing.

That includes Máiría Cahill, who says that there are perpetrators at large who are a danger to children at this time. Whatever information she has on this she should give to the appropriate authority.

Healing and rebuilding a society still emerging from conflict demands that many

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difficult issues will need to be faced up to and dealt with as a necessary part of putting the past behind us.

That will require a huge amount of courage, compassion and humility across our society.

How Republicans dealt with the issue of child abuse should be one of these issues, if that is what victims want. Sinn Féin will accept our responsibility in contributing to the resolution of these wrongs. We are committed to creating a society which is no longer bedevilled or haunted by the legacy of any harm or injustices. Sexual abuse is a challenge which still challenges all sections of modern Irish society.

Looking after all victims and their families is a significant and important part of building a peaceful and just society. And victims include a wider category than those killed or injured as a result of armed actions by any of the protagonists.

It includes those who were brutalised or had their lives limited or adversely affected by growing up in a society scarred by war and the absence of agreed, stable, democratic structures and institutions.

It also includes those badly served or mistreated by the forces of the State and those badly served or mistreated by non-State actors and armed groups, including the IRA.

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British Secretary of State needs to stop pandering to Unionism - Murphy

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British Secretary of State needs to stop pandering to Unionism - Murphy

Sinn Féin MP Conor Murphy has said that British Secretary of State Theresa Villiers needs to stop pandering to Unionists and realise the Good Friday Agreement cannot be rewritten.

Speaking after Theresa Villiers addressed the Ulster Unionist Party Conference Mr

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Murphy said,

"The statement that by British Secretary of State Theresa Villiers that the Irish Government will play little role in the political settlement of the North runs contrary to the Good Friday Agreement.

"The Irish Government is a key player and signatory to the Agreement on par with the British Government so the British Secretary of State has no power to change that unilaterally.

"Her contention that the Ulster Unionist Party has a long and distinguished history of doing the right thing for the people of the North also rings hollow for the Nationalist population who had to live under 50 years of misrule based upon sectarianism and discrimination.

"To date the contributions of Theresa Villiers on the issue of welfare cuts, the executive budget, parades and other unionist demands draws into question her political judgement and ability to command the respect necessary to reach agreement.

"Theresa Villiers needs to realise that pandering to Unionism will not resolve the current issues and that the talks will only succeed if everyone enters without preconditions and honouring the Good Friday Agreement commitments."

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DUP needs to get real on talks – McGuinness

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DUP Needs to get Real on Talks – McGuinness

Sinn Féin MLA Martin McGuinness has said that if the DUP is serious about tackling the growing crisis in the political process then they should be at the table this week with the other parties and the Irish and British governments.

Martin McGuinness MLA was speaking after meeting EU leaders to brief them on the current challenges facing the political process during a visit to the European Parliament in Brussels.

Martin McGuinness said:

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"I'm taking this opportunity to brief the party group leaders about the growing crisis in the political process in the North.

"The political institutions in the North established by the Good Friday Agreement have been undermined over the past number of years by the convergence of a number of factors.

"First mainstream political unionism has shifted towards an anti-agreement position. Second a partisan Tory-led British government is seeking to impose its policy of welfare and public service cuts on the North while pandering to a growing list of unionist demands. Alongside that the Irish government, a co-equal guarantor of the agreements has been focused on domestic economic issues.

"These three factors have encouraged anti-agreement unionists to frustrate the implementation of agreements, walk out of talks on the past, parades and flags and undermine the institutions by threatening to bring them down.

"We have consistently called on the Irish government to re-assert its role as a co-equal guarantor of the agreements and for the two governments to begin immediate, all-party talks and to reengage the American administration.

"Both governments have now called for talks.

"The DUP leader had called for talks but now appears to be preparing to walk out of talks before they have even begun.

"Yesterday they refused to stand by the agreement to appoint Mitchel McLaughlin as Speaker of the Assembly. This is yet another broken agreement. They are also seeking to deny the role of the Irish Government as co-equal guarantors of the agreements. The Irish Government has played a constructive role in each successful negotiation from Good Friday, through to St Andrews and Hillsborough. This is a vain attempt to wind the clock back. This is unacceptable. It is unsustainable.

"Let me be clear Sinn Féin operates the institutions to deliver change. We are entering these talks to address the issues facing the political process; the need to honour agreements, the need for a working budget for the Executive and additional powers to safeguard public services and welfare for all our people.

"The leaders of Unionism however, are seeking to hide from talks and avoid addressing the pressing issues facing all in our community.

"It is clear that the British Government's partisan handling of these matters has encouraged unionists to undermine the agreements.

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"Both the British Government and the DUP needs to demonstrate by word and deed that it is committed to the implementation of the agreements, to powersharing, and to equality

"If the DUP is serious they will be at the talks on Thursday with the rest of the parties and the two governments.

"What is required is an immediate start to all-party talks, free from preconditions and threats and the implementation of all previous agreements. The political institutions need to function as intended and agreed. Budgeting and fiscal powers need to be addressed, And the issues addressed in the talks chaired by Richard Haass and Meghan O'Sullivan need to be dealt with.

"I believe that the full operation of all the agreed political institutions is the best way forward for all in our society. In my opinion all can be resolved if the political will to do so exists. That requires positive forward-looking political leadership. At this minute it is unclear if that leadership exists within Unionism or the British Government."

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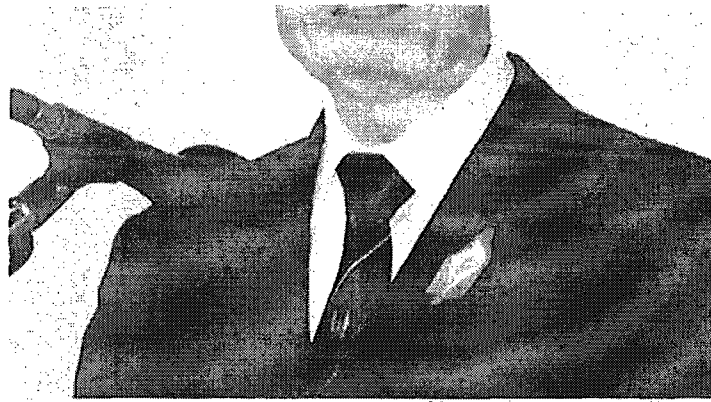
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Friends of Sinn Féin October News Update

DevoMax for North Essential





BY DECLAN KEARNEY – 30 SEPTEMBER 2014

The British Establishment's promise of maximum devolution (DevoMax) towards the end of the Scottish referendum has immediate and long-term consequences.

First, instead of closing down the debate on Scotland's future, promising DevoMax and the demand for its implementation will have a permanent impact.

Second, the Tories' bad faith on the timing of transferring powers to Scotland has opened significant divisions between them and Labour on the nature of devolution and the British State.

Third, linking Scottish DevoMax to proposed increased devolution for Wales, England and the north opens a Pandora's box for the political and constitutional basis of the British State.

By conceding that previously reserved political, fiscal and economic powers can be transferred, a new factor has been injected into the case for Scottish independence.

That also strengthens Sinn Fein's analysis that partition has failed and call for a democratic discussion on an agreed Ireland.

There should be DevoMax for the north. That means fiscal arrangements which protect and do not reduce the block grant.

Full transfer of powers will not resolve our huge economic challenges. However, control over economic sovereignty would become a strategic game-changer.

The potential of the North South Ministerial Council could be maximised with regard to all-Ireland economic co-operation and integration. By bringing new emphasis to the all-island economy through fiscal and economic policy harmonisation, opportunities will emerge to enhance competitiveness and growth of business north and south.

Full transfer of powers to our institutions makes sense. It can happen in parallel, or dovetail, with a new negotiations process. Those negotiations must deliver progress beyond the status quo.

That means a 'Plan A-plus' outcome. Securing a DevoMax package for the north would be complementary.

The Scottish referendum was popular democracy in action. Citizens here deserve a similar right to shape the economic and political future of an agreed Ireland.

Declan Kearney is Sinn Fein's national chairman

Rallies will Heighten Tensions - Kelly



Sinn Féin MLA Gerry Kelly has hit out at plans by the Orange Order and political unionism to bring people on to the streets as part of the so-called graduated response.

Speaking after the announcement of rallies in protest at the Parades Commission decision on a section of an Orange Order parade in North Belfast, Mr Kelly said:

"We need less parades in the North, not more.

"This move can only heighten tensions and is part of a unionist effort to undermine the Parades Commission and put pressure on the British Secretary of State to reward intransigence.

"Clearly the DUP, Orange Order and their allies in negative unionism, which includes loyalist paramilitary groups, are more concerned about one parade than entering into genuine negotiations to resolve the outstanding issues around parades, flags and the past.

"In the past when unionist leaders have called people out on to the streets we have seen a descent into street violence.

"There is a responsibility on the organisers to ensure that any rallies or public demonstrations are peaceful." Ends/Críoch

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With the Taoiseach make it clear that the planned talks must take place free from threat and without precondition, and that they should be time-bound and commence as quickly as possible?

"Will the Government act as defender, guarantor and champion of progress in the North and hold the British Government to account for its failure to implement key aspects of the agreement?"

In the course of his reply Enda Kenny said he was happy that the Irish and British Governments, as co-guarantors of the agreement would now involve themselves in a process that could hopefully bring matters to a conclusion.

"We can discuss Acht na Gaeilge, the Bill of Rights and other matters such the murder of Pat Finucane. We need a serious analysis of the situation. We need to find a mechanism to deal with the sensitive issues of the past because, if they are transferred into the new system, the same problems will be recreated in a different way."

ENDS

There can be no Preconditions to Talks – Murphy MP

Sinn Féin MP Conor Murphy commenting on British Secretary of State Theresa Villiers statement that 'disagreement over welfare reform and the budget must be sorted out before a cut to the business tax rate is made' said:

"I welcome the announcement of all-Party Talks. Sinn Féin has been calling on the governments for some time now to convene these talks and I welcome the fact the Irish and British governments are now committed to making them happen.

"The British government has been part of the problem in the political process in the North. It's now time it became part of the solution and problem solvers rather than have Ms Villiers introduce further obstacles and preconditions.

"There can be no preconditions, threats or preconceived outcomes to the negotiations and as such the British government should immediately lift its threat to impose severe financial penalties on the North's Executive.

"Instead of Theresa Villiers seeking to draw back from her Prime Minister's commitment on corporation tax, the transfer of full fiscal powers to the Executive should be on the table in the wake of promises made to Scotland after its referendum

"We need the transfer of a full suite of fiscal powers. These include corporation tax and the tax varying powers needed to grow our economy in the aftermath of the British government's cut to our block grant by billions over the last four years and its renegeing on commitments made to boost our economy." CRÍOCH/END

Parades decision a capitulation to negative unionism – Kelly

Sinn Féin MLA Gerry Kelly said today that the British Secretary of State Theresa Villiers has rewarded the most intransigent elements of unionism, loyalism and the Orange Order.

Gerry Kelly was speaking after Theresa Villiers conceded a demand of anti-agreement unionist/loyalist axis for a Panel into a decision by the Parades Commission to prevent an Orange Order parade passing the nationalist Ardoyne, Mountainview and Dales areas.

The North Belfast MLA said:

"The decision by British Secretary of State Theresa Villiers to set up a panel into loyal Order parades is capitulating to a unionist ultimatum following their walk-out from all-party talks. It underlines the British government's partisan approach to unionism.

"This panel is not a mediation body. It does not meet the criteria set out in the Parades Commission's determination, which stated 'what is important is that any structures must have the confidence and endorsement of those most closely impacted by the issues'.

"The panel does not have the support of the local community. I'm also disappointed that during the course of Theresa Villiers' discussion with negative unionism that she did not listen to the views of the residents of Ardoyne.

"This approach clearly undermines the Parades Commission, which is the statutory body set up to deal with the issue of contentious parades. That is unacceptable.

"Theresa Villiers' only contribution to this dispute has been to reward the most intransigent elements of unionism, loyalism and Orangeism." Ends/Críoch

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British Government Must Become
Part of the Solution – Murphy





Sinn Féin MP Conor Murphy today called on the British government to become part of the resolution of problems in the political process in the North of Ireland.

Conor Murphy was speaking at a fringe event at the Tory party conference in Birmingham as part of a panel discussion involving British Secretary of State Theresa Villiers.

Conor Murphy said:

"The British government has been part of the problem in the political process in the North.

"The British government refused to back the compromise Haass/O'Sullivan proposals on the issues of flags, parading and the legacy of the past. It has frustrated investigations into state killings and the state's collusion with loyalist death squads and emboldened negative unionism by its increasing partisan pro-unionist stance.

"It's time therefore for the British government to become part of the solution.

"It can do that by honouring commitments it made in the Good Friday and other agreements on Acht na Gaeilge, a Bill of Rights and an independent inquiry into the murder of human rights lawyer Pat Finucane."

The Newry Armagh MP said that he welcomed the announcement of all-party talks. Conor Murphy said:

"Sinn Féin has been calling on the governments for some time now to convene all-party talks and I welcome the fact the Irish and British governments are now committed to making this happen.

"The governments are coequal guarantors of the agreements. Any negotiations must have an open agenda and the political will to reach agreement. The talks should include all parties and be time limited.

"There can be no preconditions, threats or preconceived outcomes to the negotiations and as

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such the British government should suspend immediately its threat to impose £8/m in financial penalties."

And Conor Murphy said the British government should transfer fiscal powers to the Executive in the wake of promises made to Scotland after the referendum

"The British government has cut the block grant to the Executive by billions over the last four years and reneged on commitments made to boost our economy.

"We need the transfer of a full suite of fiscal powers which includes corporation tax and the tax varying powers needed to grow our economy." ENDS/CRIOCH

Convene Talks as a Matter of Urgency – Adams



Sinn Féin President Gerry Adams TD has today welcomed the announcement by Minister Charlie Flanagan TD of all-party talks involving the two governments. The talks will deal with the issues

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currently impacting on the political institutions set up under the Good Friday Agreement.

Gerry Adams said:

"We welcome today's announcement by Minister Flanagan that the Irish and British governments are to initiate all-party talks to resolve the issues facing the political process in the north.

"Alongside the two governments, the American administration can play a constructive and meaningful role in shaping and supporting the talks' process.

"Given the undermining of the institutions, the refusal to engage in talks and the breaches of the Good Friday Agreement (GFA) and other agreements by sections of political unionism and the British government, Sinn Féin has consistently called on both governments to live up to their role as co-equal guarantors of these agreements.

"We remain concerned that the British Government has assumed an explicitly partisan and pro-unionist party stance.

"It is clear that the GFA, as endorsed by the people, is the framework for resolving these matters.

"For our part Sinn Féin is ready for talks. We will enter them to resolve issues and will, as always, abide by any agreements made.

"Others must commit to do the same and the talks should be convened as a matter of urgency by the two governments and supported by the American administration." ENDS/CRIÓCH

Negotiations should begin immediately - Kelly





Sinn Féin MLA Gerry Kelly said today that comprehensive negotiations should begin immediately in an effort to move the political process forward.

Gerry Kelly said:

"There is clearly a need for comprehensive negotiations involving all the parties, the British and Irish governments and the US administration on all the issues currently frustrating political progress.

"The British government also needs to fulfill commitments made in the Good Friday and other agreements such as a Bill of Rights, Acht na Gacilge and the Pat Finucane Inquiry."

And Gerry Kelly warned British Secretary of State Theresa Villiers that it would be counter productive to reward negative unionism with a panel of inquiry into a contentious Orange parade in North Belfast.

"If Theresa Villiers wants to encourage dialogue on parading then the last thing she should do is to reward unionist, loyalist and Orange negativity and intransigence by giving in to their ultimatum for an inquiry into parading in north Belfast.

"The Parades Commission is the legally constituted body tasked with the work of adjudicating on contentious parades. Experience shows us that the only effective way to resolve these issues is through a process of meaningful dialogue.

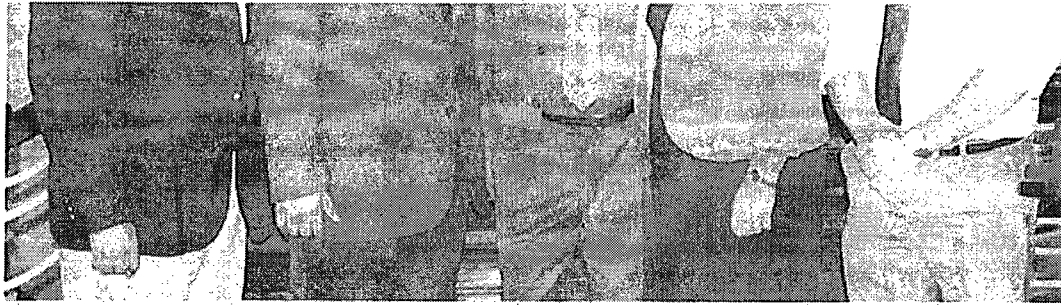
"It would be entirely counter-productive for the British government to reward this negativity." ENDS/CRÍOCH

Michelle Gildernew Visits Rhode Island, Meets with Key Community Leadership



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Chris McDonald Friendly Sons and Daughters of Erin, Pawtucket RI Mayor Donald Grebien, Joe Flanagan Friendly Sons and Daughters of Erin, Michelle Gildernew, Conor Duffy FOSF USA

Michelle Gildernew, Sinn Féin MP for Fermanagh and South Tyrone visited Rhode Island from September 11 to the 13, 2014. Michelle met with key community and elected leadership in the Pawtucket and Providence Rhode Island areas. Christopher McDonald, President of the Sons and Daughters of Erin of Pawtucket RI, hosted Michelle.

On Thursday September 11, Michelle arrived in Pawtucket, RI and met with Peter Kilmartin, Attorney General, State of Rhode Island. Mrs. Gildernew also met with Michael Caine of the Centennial Committee for 100th Anniversary of the Easter Rising.

Friday, Michelle participated in a flag raising ceremony at the Pawtucket City Hall. Those in attendance included Pawtucket Mayor Donald R. Grebien, City Councilor Mark Wildenhain and Police Chief Paul King and Fire Chief William Sisson. Michelle met with Mayor Grebien and updated him on Sinn Féin's goals and roadblocks in working toward a United Ireland.

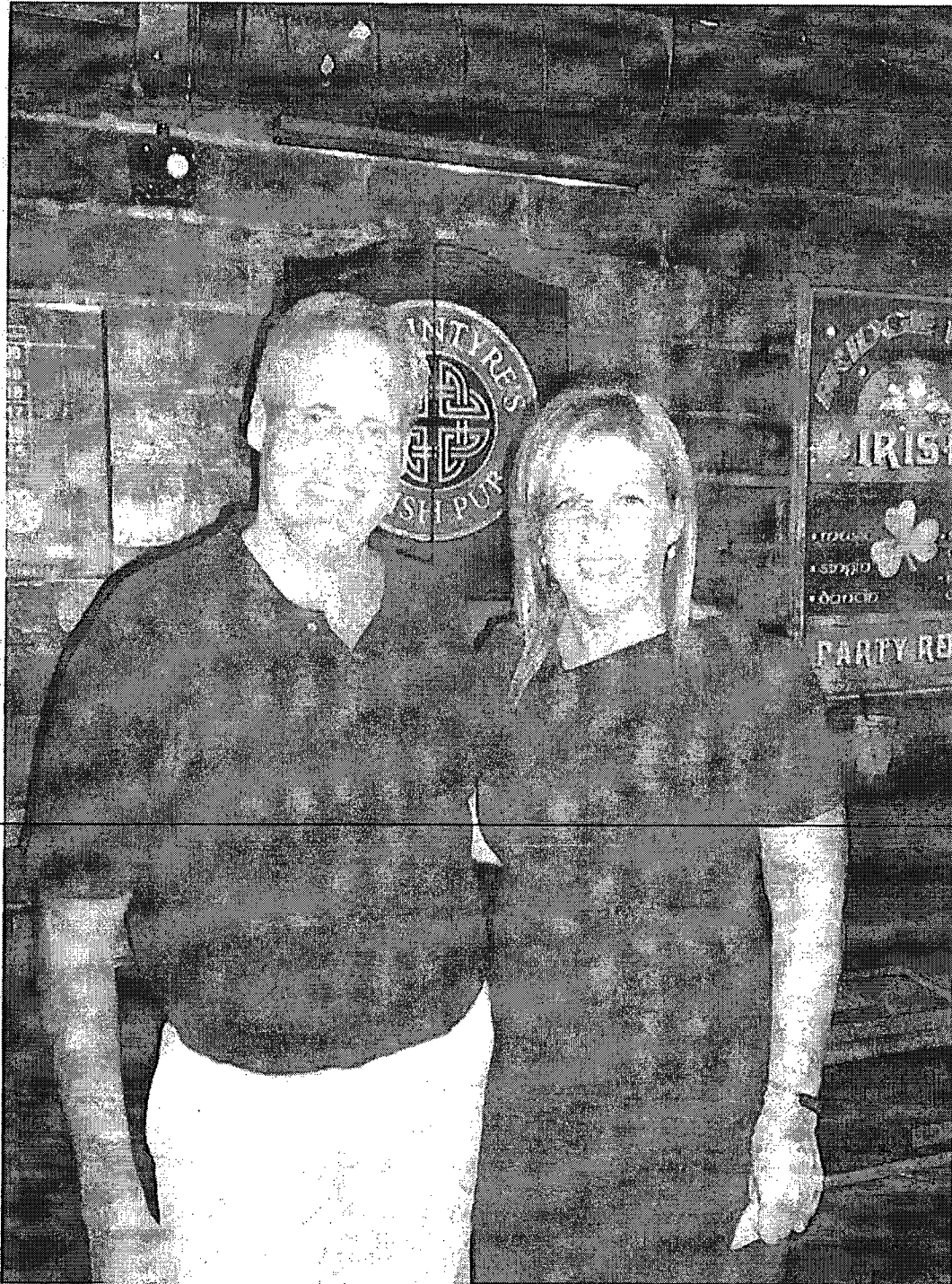
Friday Afternoon, Michelle visited a packed auditorium in Tolman High School in Pawtucket. She spoke to the student body about the history of the conflict in Northern Ireland, the unique structure of government and politics on the island of Ireland, and the important impact of the United States throughout Irelands history and the more recent Peace Process.

Fridays events concluded with a wreath Laying at James McNally Wilson's Grave along side Father Mark Sauriol at St. Mary's Church in Pawtucket, RI.

On Saturday, Michelle attended the 3rd annual Irish Music Festival and Road Race in Pawtucket Rhode Island. Throughout the event Mrs. Gildernew met with Donald Deignan, PhD, president of the Rhode Island Irish Famine Memorial Committee, U.S. Congressman David Cicilline, State Sen. Donna Nesselbush and John Baxter, RI Senate director of constituent services.

ENDS.

Cleveland welcomes Daughter of Mayo -Rose the star of the show



Rose Conway-Walsh with Ohio Irish News editor John O'Brien Jr.

Sinn Féin Councillor Rose Conway-Walsh got a huge welcome to Cleveland Ohio with a packed reception at PJ McIntyre's, a well known gathering place for Mayo expats on Wednesday September 24th. Rose has roots in Ballycroy and local people of Ballycroy origin provided home-baked-desserts and breads. Musician Noel Leahagan opened the event with a tune from the 1798

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rebellion and a song about Michael Davitt. Rose spoke covering local issues, Sinn Féin's electoral success, and the impasse in the implementation of GFA and the rejection of Haas by the obstructionists.

Rose attended the opening and the reception of the Mayo Societies World Convention which is held in Cleveland every year because of the many people there who trace their origins to Mayo.

On Friday and Saturday, Rose attended workshops on healthcare, business, tourism and education, each with a dimension of economic development through Cleveland - County Mayo cooperation and exchange. She actively participated in these exchanges.

Congressman David P. Joyce (R, Ohio 14) was the Friday lunchtime speaker. Rose raised a point about encouraging the administration to play a stronger role in breaking the impasse in the peace process and Haas. He gave a brief response saying he was on board with that which will be followed up.

Simultaneous to the Mayo Convention and at the same hotel, was the Irish American Law Society (Cleveland) first annual conference and seminar. The workshop that gained the most attention was on the Boston College Tapes case. Dr. Ruan O'Donnell was featured on the panel, moderated by a retired judge and including the US Attorney for the Northern District of Ohio and a criminal defense attorney with a concentration on white collar crime cases in Federal Court.

Ruan was really the only one with detailed knowledge of the case and the background. The moderator's first question to open the panel was to ask Ruan to give a brief history of the conflict. It made a huge difference, putting the case into a republican historical context.

Sunday morning Rose appeared on the Gerry Quinn Irish Radio show on WHK 1420AM and then departed for the airport.

Rose excelled at making personal contacts both with political figures and with the ordinary people from Achill, Ballycroy, and Mayo. Rose was always seen engaging with local people (and others) in the corridors and at social events. She attended everything and took an active role. She looked to be the star of the Mayo Council delegation.

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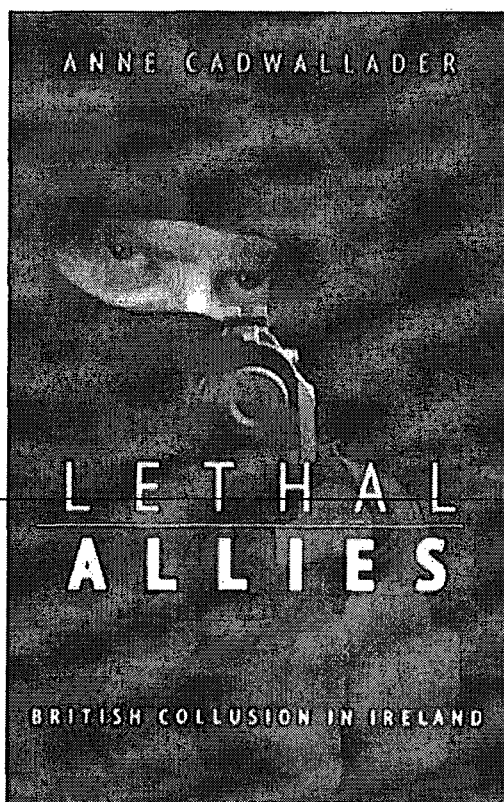
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Anne Cadwallader - glucksman Ireland House

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The Brehon Law Society will host author and former journalist, Anne Cadwallader who will discuss her new best-selling book "Lethal Allies" which deals with collusion between, the police, British soldiers and Loyalists killers in the murders of over 120 Catholic civilians in the conflict in Ireland.

Date: October 7, 2014

Time: 7:00pm

Location: Glucksman Ireland House, NYU

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Event is open to all free of charge

Please RSVP to:

Sean Downes (212) 248-3232;

sjd_esq@hotmail.com

New York Journal of Books: "meticulously researched... makes a compelling case for the uncomfortable truth"

The Independent, London: "Compelling evidence... striking conclusions... an embarrassment to the authorities"

The Guardian, London: "One of the most important books about the dirty war in Northern Ireland... offering indisputable evidence of security force collusion"

Anne Cadwallader will also be appearing at the following venues:

Boston, MA: Black Rose - October 5, 4 PM; Contact: 617-742-2286

Albany, NY: Irish American Heritage - October 6, 7 PM; Contact: 518-961-1588

Trenton, NJ: Tir Na Nog - October 8, 5:30 PM; Contact: 609-462-7056

Philly AOH Division 39: - October 8, 8 PM; Contact: 215-624-1590

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Stormont's challenges can
be overcome, insists Martin
McGuinness



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JOHN HEDGES

AN PHOBLACHT EDITOR

FIRST MINISTER Peter Robinson should have talked to joint First Minister Martin McGuinness rather than unilaterally announce in a daily newspaper that the power-sharing arrangements in the North "are no longer fit for purpose" because Sinn Féin is resisting the Tory-led welfare cuts.

The Democratic Unionist Party leader also said that new elections could be an option.

Such "megaphone or media-based negotiations" by the DUP leader are counter-productive, Martin McGuinness said, insisting:

"We can overcome the difficult challenges facing the political process.

"The most productive way to do business and get an agreement is through talking to the people you disagree with.

"We all have a responsibility to work together but in the first place the First Minister should talk to me and to his Executive colleagues.

"We have overcome enormous challenges in the past by treating each other with a degree of respect."

He said that with the support and engagement of the Irish and British governments and the US administration, "I'm confident we can find a resolution to our current difficulties."

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Martin McGuinness was responding an article written exclusively for Tuesday's *Belfast Telegraph* which the paper's Liam Clarke described as "a dramatic intervention on the future of Stormont" if there is no political agreement on welfare cuts.

Peter Robinson threatened in his article that an election would be the only alternative if agreement cannot be reached quickly.

The DUP leader also called for "a second take" of the St Andrews Agreement that devolved powers to the Executive and Assembly in the Six Counties.

20 years after IRA cessation – Gerry Adams writes in 'The Guardian'



STAFF REPORTER - GUARDIAN

WRITING IN TODAY'S *Guardian* newspaper, Sinn Féin leader Gerry Adams TD says the British Government has made no effort on outstanding issues from the Good Friday Agreement and other agreements.

The article marks the 20th anniversary of the IRA cessation of 1994.

Gerry Adams also says that Tory proposals for changes to the welfare system are part of a Thatcherite agenda designed to dismantle the welfare state.

The Sinn Féin President says an anti-Good Friday Agreement axis within unionism, the pro-unionist stance of British Secretary of State Theresa Villiers, Downing Street's refusal to honour its obligations, and its efforts to impose welfare cuts have combined to create the most serious threat to the political institutions in the North in recent years.

Gerry Adams says:

"Most worryingly, there is no evidence from Downing Street, the Northern Ireland Office or unionist leaderships of any likelihood of a negotiation on outstanding issues.

"Political logjams have been reinforced. This is seen in a failure to support the Haass compromise proposals on dealing with legacy issues including flags, symbols and parades, and in the speed with which the Cameron government acquiesced to Peter Robinson's demand to establish the Hallett inquiry into so-called 'On the Runs' (OTRs).

"The British Government has made no effort on outstanding issues including a Bill of Rights, an Irish Language Act, the North-South consultative forum, and the inquiry into the killing of Pat Finucane.

"These are not matters for negotiation but agreements made.

"In addition, the Tory-led Government wants to impose changes to the welfare system mirroring those introduced in England, Scotland and Wales with disastrous consequences for the disabled, unemployed and the low-paid. These changes are part of a Thatcherite agenda designed to dismantle the welfare state. Sinn Féin will oppose them."

Gerry Adams reiterates that Sinn Féin is committed to the Good Friday Agreement and the political institutions and will resist efforts by unionist leaders to roll things back.

"The deepening political crisis puts the onus on the Irish and British governments to create a different political context. This requires the two governments, in conjunction with the US administration, to establish a pro-agreement axis among parties in the North.

"It means the Irish and British governments making progress on issues that

are their direct responsibility. Twenty years on, it is vital that positive change takes the place of political inertia.”

Fifteen years on from Patten

- Gerry Kelly



Our experience of policing has been totally transformed over the course of the last fifteen years.

The Patten report ushered in hard-fought changes, which changed the entire ethos of policing.

The Patten Report, published 15 years ago today, began that process of change. That process continued in the St Andrew's talks to ensure that we can have a police service which is effective, efficient and accountable.

The Good Friday Agreement and the Patten report were designed to bring about a police service that can enjoy widespread support from, and is seen as an integral part of, the community as a whole; a police service that is effective, efficient and free from partisan political control; and policing which is delivered in constructive and inclusive partnership with the community and with the maximum delegation of authority and responsibility.

Working together across society and across the political spectrum, we have made a lot of progress toward that goal.

Rigorous oversight mechanisms have been put in place to ensure the accountability and transparency of policing. From the Assembly Justice Committee to the Policing Board to the Policing and Community Safety Partnerships, as well as the Police Ombudsman's Office and the Criminal Justice Inspectorate, we now have bodies which allow us to hold the PSNI up to a high degree of scrutiny in order to ensure acceptable standards of policing are met.

The introduction of unaccountable agencies into the policing arena in the North could set back the progress we have made to date and make further progress impossible. All aspects of policing here must meet the same standards of accountability. If members of the NCA are to get the powers of a constable then they must operate under the same accountability mechanisms as a constable in the PSNI.

Of course, the situation is not perfect. Where the experience of policing falls short of that standard we now have measures to address it. The Office of the Police Ombudsman was set up to provide an independent, impartial mechanism to deal with complaints against the police. Sinn Féin has continually upheld the need for the independence of the Police Ombudsman to be maintained.

One of the key recommendations of the Patten report is that "policing with the community should be the core function of the police service and the core function of every police station".

It must be part of every aspect of policing, not just a piecemeal set of initiatives.

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Partnership working with local communities has made a real difference. That community engagement, underpinned with a commitment to international human rights standards, must continue to grow and to deepen.

New partnerships between the police and local communities have been developed which would have been unthinkable 15 years ago, and we need to see these rolled out in all areas.

However, despite the significant progress, which has been made, there is still need for further improvement.

Efforts have been made to make the PSNI representative of society as a whole, especially during the time of 50:50 recruitment, but we are not there yet. Specifically targeted recruitment policies have helped to address the historic imbalance in the make-up of the police but it is still not wholly representative of the community it serves.

Many challenges still exist in policing, not least of which is delivering an effective service to local communities. We all have a part to play in ensuring that this happens.

Dealing with the past, particularly the many problems, which existed in policing, is also a major challenge.

Of course addressing the past goes beyond policing and requires a political deal, but the absence of such a deal would not excuse the withholding of files from inquests, failure to cooperate with Ombudsman investigations or the cover-up of collusion.

We must ensure that the Haass report is implemented and that the wider community and the two governments take responsibility for dealing with the past.

We must ensure that Policing with the Community becomes a reality in all

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areas.

In particular we must ensure that impending budget cuts don't impact on the equality and accountability measures, on human rights standards and on community engagement.

Huge strides have been taken over the last 15 years and Sinn Féin is determined to continue with that progress so that all communities have the police service they deserve.

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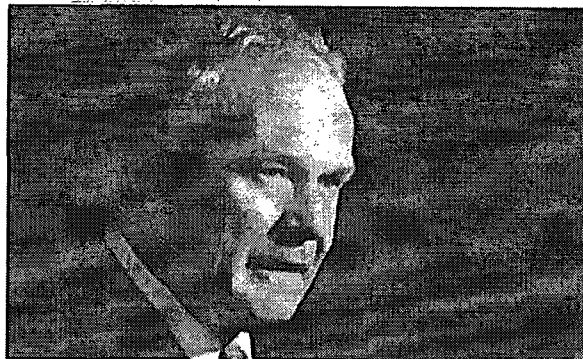
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No Alternative to Dialogue and Agreement - McGuinness



Sinn Féin's Martin McGuinness has said there is no alternative to dialogue and agreement.

Delivering a keynote address in Derry this morning on the 20th anniversary of the IRA ceasefire, Mr McGuinness said;

"The absence of dialogue and a commitment to dialogue as the way to overcome disagreements is at the heart of the growing difficulties we are now facing in the peace process across a range of key issues.

"Rather than making progress on the issues of identity, parading and the past by building on the enormously important work carried out by Richard Haass and Meghan O'Sullivan, the DUP and the UUP have now retreated into a coalition with rejectionist unionism and loyalist paramilitaries.

Three times in the last six months, the DUP have threatened the political institutions if they do not get their own way.

"But the real threat to the political institutions is stagnation and the absence of progress.

~~"The real threat is the retreat of political unionism from dialogue,~~
compromise, agreement and reconciliation.

"I have personally tried to understand and reach out to the unionist population not least in my engagements with Queen Elizabeth. But reconciliation is not a one-way street. Unionist leaders need to engage in similar initiatives.

"So there is an enormous onus on those who recognise the enormous progress we have made, and continue to make, since the IRA cessation in 1994 to make their voices heard.

"There can be no return to the violence and repression that scarred this society for so long.

"I would urge dissident republicans still committed to armed actions to take that same step in 2014 into politics and away from conflict.

"The supporters of the agreement internationally, in particular in the United

States of America, need to reassert their interest and influence.

"The two governments need to be champions for progress not, as they have been over the recent past, facilitators of inertia.

"These are the challenges for all of us as we enter a new term in the Assembly but I am convinced that we can find a resolution to all the difficulties facing the political process.

"There is no alternative to dialogue and agreement. This is the only path to a shared and better future on this island." Ends/Críoch

IRA Ceasefire August 1995 -The Day That Changed Ireland Forever



Niall O'Dowd | @niallodowd | September 01, 2014 |

On August 31, 1994 – the day of the historic IRA ceasefire that brought the beginning of the end to the North's Troubles – I was working out in a gym in a Dublin hotel.

We had been told by our IRA contact to "wait for the Angelus bell" the prayer that stops Ireland twice a day at noon and 6 pm for their ceasefire announcement. It was just coming up on noon and the radio in the gym was blaring.

I had just come from Belfast with a small group of Irish Americans – Chuck Feeney, Bruce Morrison Bill Flynn and Joe Jameson – where we had met with Sinn Fein leaders Gerry Adams and Martin McGuinness as a crush of media waited outside.

The five of us were intermediaries between President Clinton, who could not talk directly to Sinn Fein, and the Republican leadership.

For almost three years we had been shuttling back and forth between Belfast and Washington and taking part in many covert telephone calls where code words were the order of the day.

We were known as the Connolly House group because our meetings with Sinn Fein took place mainly in Connolly House in Belfast.

We had proposed to the White House, and won, the Gerry Adams visa of February 1994 that brought the Sinn Fein leader to the US. Now the IRA was set to end their campaign.

Or were they? Like everything else in Northern Ireland it was going to be opaque until the last possible moment.

Rumors that it would be a limited ceasefire, unacceptable to everyone, abounded. We were pretty certain after our meeting with Adams, Martin McGuinness and other leaders it would not be limited, but who knew?

Right after the Angelus bell RTE, Irish national radio, broke into its programming to announce that a ceasefire of unlimited duration had been declared.

It was a magnificent moment, for Sinn Fein, for Irish America but mostly for Ireland.

In the lobby of my hotel the pages started coming. One call was from Ted Kennedy

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who had played such a critical role in getting President Clinton to take a chance on Sinn Fein after our urging.

I was invited on the prime time news program on RTE and Albert Reynolds, the Irish leader who had done so much to bring the historic event about, entered the green room.

He was as high as could be, as high as any politician I had ever seen, and rightfully so. He grabbed my hand and practically squeezed the life out of it.

This was his magnificent moment, Ireland's wonderful moment.

Incredibly, a few months later he would be out of power, a true example of the vagaries of politics.

But this day belonged to him and a few others, especially John Hume and President Clinton who had taken such risks for peace and Martin McGuinness and Gerry Adams who made it happen.

It is now long ago and far away and the peace has held – unsteadily at times – overcome a break down in the ceasefire, and survived many other threats to bring it down.

Earlier this summer I was with the Ireland Funds in Belfast and we visited a Catholic school where the pupils told us they wanted far more interaction with their Protestant neighbors.

They were growing up in a different Ireland, one that gave them confidence and an outlook that society could come together not fall apart. It did my heart good to listen to their hopes and dreams and their acceptance of peace as a natural state.

The IRA ceasefire started that momentum 20 years ago this week. Long may it continue.

Peace Process Continues to Inspire Across the Globe – Maskey



Sinn Féin MLA Alex Maskey has said that our peace process is an inspiration for other areas across the globe suffering with conflict.

Speaking from Thailand where he has been talking about the experiences of the Irish peace process Mr Maskey said,

“The 20th anniversary of the IRA cessation is a major milestone in our peace process but its impact needs to be taken in a bigger context than just Ireland.

“Since the cessation Sinn Féin members have travelled to Palestine, Columbia, Myanmar, Philippines, Thailand, Basque Country, Middle East and other countries looking to resolve their own conflicts to speak about our experiences.

“While our process is by no means perfect it has given hope to other areas that conflict can be replaced by dialogue and agreement.

“The message we take is that while making peace is hard work it can be achieved if room is created to allow dialogue to begin and trust to build.”

ENDS/CRÍOCH

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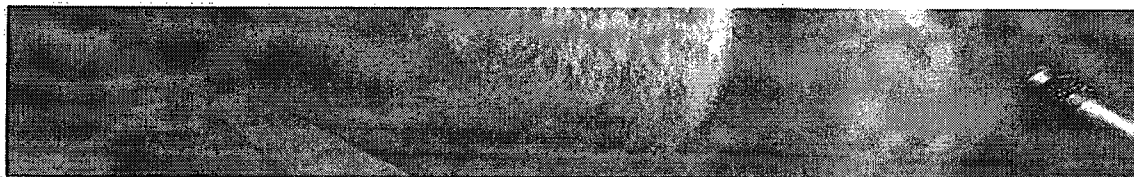
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This week marks the 20th anniversary of the 1994 IRA cessation. The Ireland of the early 1990s was a very different place. Political censorship and exclusion was the norm. Successive Irish governments worked with British governments in pursuing a negative agenda which merely fed the cycle of discrimination, resistance and conflict.

Unionist leaders, supported by elements of the British and Irish establishments, opposed any dialogue between the British and Irish governments and republicans.

However, by early August 1994, despite continued conflict there was a feeling among republican leaders that we were driving forward an historic process of change. This had been years in the making. Indeed if we go back to when Fathers Alec Reid, Des Wilson and I started our discussions, over a decade had passed.

Progress on developing the peace process had been made behind the scenes in meetings with John Hume.

These later emerged as the Hume/Adams initiative. There was also progress with the Irish Government. Martin McGuinness and I had given the IRA our assessment that there was a convergence of views between Sinn Féin, John Hume and the Irish Government on a range of issues.

We had achieved agreement on a number of important points. There was an acceptance that Partition had failed; there could be no internal settlement within the Six Counties; the Irish people as a whole had a right to national self-determination; there could be no unionist veto over discussions or their outcome and any negotiated settlement required fundamental constitutional and political change. We also agreed that there were practical matters of immediate concern to nationalists in the North, including parity of esteem, equality of opportunity and equality for Irish culture and identity.

The Irish Government had given written assurances that in the event of an IRA cessation, it would end its marginalisation of the Sinn Féin electorate and that there would be an early public meeting between Taoiseach Albert Reynolds, John Hume and myself. In order to show that change was imminent, we worked to develop public

manifestations of support for an alternative approach which might convince republicans to back a cessation.

Irish America was key to this. The peace process was also now on the agenda of the Clinton Administration. A powerful group of Irish Americans had committed to campaign in the US for an end to visa restrictions for republicans; establishment of a Washington office to inform the US media and public on the peace process; to lobby for investment in the North and for the US to act as guarantors of any agreements entered into. The fledgling Clinton administration had indicated positivity.

Events were now moving quickly. We had asked for a visa for Joe Cahill to travel to the US to brief Irish Americans of developments. This would test the Clinton Administration's commitment to the peace process. Fr Alec, US Ambassador Jean Kennedy Smith, her brother Senator Ted Kennedy and Taoiseach Albert Reynolds spent long hours lobbying for a visa for Joe Cahill.

On Sunday August 28th John Hume and I issued another joint statement making clear that agreement threatened no one. It was followed that evening by a statement from Albert Reynolds who said an historic opportunity was opening up and the British had a responsibility to respond on demilitarisation and inclusive all-party talks.

On August 29th, in the face of strident British opposition, visas were granted to Joe Cahill and Pat Treanor to travel to the US. This demonstrated there would be a strong international focus in support of the Irish side in negotiations with the British.

I reported to the Sinn Féin Ard Chomhairle that the final pieces of the jigsaw were coming together but we understood the ultimate decision on a cessation rested with the IRA.

Martin McGuinness and I went to meet the IRA leadership again. Martin said the Hume/Adams initiative had given people hope, that more nationalists saw republicans making a real effort to build peace, that Irish nationalism was reasserting itself and that Sinn Féin was growing in strength.

We made it clear that the struggle wasn't ending and given that the political commitments made were multilateral and public that there was a better chance of delivery than with previous cessations. We argued that it was an opportunity to test the British governments' desire for peace and to reach out to unionists, who we had been meeting at civic, community and religious level for some time.

I made clear that it was a high-risk strategy but that we had commitments from John Hume, the Irish Government and Irish America was willing to play its part. We could set in place a process which created the conditions for a just and lasting peace and from there build a pathway to a new all-Ireland republic of equals. A formal proposal was put to the meeting and the IRA's Army Council voted to give the process a chance.

At 11am on 31st August, the IRA announced "a complete cessation of military operations". As hundreds of people arrived for an impromptu rally at Sinn Féin's offices at Connolly House in Belfast cheering their approval, I was struck by the awesome responsibility of it, with the hopes and aspirations of so many pinned on us delivering.

The IRA cessation opened up the space for the development of the peace process. Enormous changes have come as a result of that decision by the IRA leadership. It was quickly followed by the loyalist ceasefire. It has had profound effects on politics in Ireland and in the relationship between Ireland and Britain.

People rightly remember the great political highs of the past two decades, be it the achievement of the Good Friday Agreement, the St. Andrews and Hillsborough Agreements, the decision of Ian Paisley to share power or the decision by the IRA to leave the stage.

However, none of these or the other fundamental, political, social and constitutional changes which have been effected over the course of the peace process would have been possible without the difficult and risk-laden work undertaken by Albert Reynolds, Fathers Alec Reid and Des Wilson, John Hume, the Sinn Féin leadership and others such as Martin Mansergh, Seán Ó hUigínn, Niall O'Dowd, Ken Newell and Harold Good in the years before the 1994 cessation.

Twenty years on there is an urgent need for the British and Irish governments to tackle outstanding issues bedevilling the political process in the North and which threaten the progress that has been made. The Taoiseach would do well to emulate the approach adopted by the late Albert Reynolds.

-Gerry Adams

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FOSF NEWS UPDATE Political Process in Trouble - Adams

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Political Process in Trouble – Adams





Sinn Féin President Gerry Adams TD in a keynote statement today has warned that the *"political process faces its greatest challenge since the Good Friday Agreement negotiations in 1998."*

The Sinn Féin leader said:

- *"the anti-Good Friday Agreement axis within unionism, the pro-unionist stance of the British secretary of state, the refusal of Downing St to honour its own obligations, and its efforts to impose cuts in the welfare system, are combining to create the most serious threat to the political institutions in the north in recent years."*

- *"Most worryingly there is no evidence from Downing Street or the NIO or the Unionist leaderships of any likelihood of a real negotiation on all of these issues commencing in September. This therefore presents a very significant challenge to everyone who wants to see progress and to all those who support the Good Friday and other agreements, this includes leaders of civic society, the community sector, the trade union movement, the business sector, as well as political parties."*

- *David Trimble in his day and Peter Robinson, despite some positive periods, have undermined their role as First Minister. Instead of actively and determinedly working with the Deputy First Minister to maximise the potential for a new beginning they have minimised the promise and potential of the Good Friday Agreement."*

- *"The fact is that the anti-agreement axis has been very active in asserting a negative agenda. Too many in the pro-agreement axis, with some notable exceptions, have been passive. This includes the Irish government."*

- *"The DUP has repeatedly demonstrated an unwillingness to participate positively in any of the institutions. Instead it has adopted a tactical approach aimed at serving the political agenda of a fundamentalist rump in their party rather than the needs of the whole community."*

- *"As Martin McGuinness has noted 'We are in government with unionists"*

because we want to be. They are in government with us because they have to be."

"The Tory-led government in London wants to impose changes to the welfare benefits system mirroring similar changes that have been introduced in England, Scotland and Wales - changes that have resulted in disastrous consequences for the disabled, the unemployed and those in low paid jobs.

"These should be opposed by a united Executive. These changes are not about reform. They are about cuts and they are part of a Thatcherite agenda designed to dismantle the welfare state. And Sinn Féin will oppose them.

"The effect of all of this and of the British government's handling of the political situation has been to reinforce political logjams.

"The political process is in trouble.

"The British Secretary of State is contemplating conceding to another of the recent unionist demands by setting up some form of inquiry into the Parades Commission decision on the Ardoyne march – a move that would dangerously damage the integrity of the Parades Commission, undermine the residents and further undermine the Haass proposals.

"Regardless of political allegiance everyone who values a future based upon equality must become a champion for progress in their own community, in the workplace, in the voluntary and community sector, across the trade union movement, in the churches and the media.

"If the unionist leaderships refuse to engage positively in new negotiations then the Irish and British governments, as co-equal guarantors of the Agreement, must ensure that outstanding issues are implemented.

The Full text of Mr. Adams remarks.

"The Orange state was built on partition, unionist domination, inequality and injustice.

It was an apartheid state in which citizens were denied the right to a vote, to a job, to a fair justice system and to a home.

The failure of unionism and of the British government to agree fundamental reform in the 1960s led to a militarisation of the situation and to decades of conflict.

20 years ago this month unionism responded in a similar vein in response to the unilateral initiative by the IRA to call a complete cessation.

Ian Paisley claimed that unionists now faced the worst crisis in Ulster's history.

Jim Molyneaux said it was a de-stabilising move. In his view it was not an occasion for celebration, quite the opposite.

For both unionist leaders it was a threat to a status quo which favoured unionism.

An opportunity to build peace

Others saw it differently.

They saw the cessation as an opportunity to end the conflict.

An opportunity to replace violence with peace, and replace discrimination with equality.

The majority of people across the island of Ireland voted in favour of the Good Friday Agreement.

But a small rump within political unionism were vehemently opposed to it.

In the years since the Good Friday Agreement, not least because of the absence of consistent and positive leadership, the pro-Agreement unionist vote has stayed at home.

The leaderships of unionism have moved increasingly to the right; more concerned with election rivalry than the common good.

Consequently the potential for the Agreement to create a new society and to demolish the sectarian mindsets and the physical walls which divide communities, has been delayed as some unionist leaders pander to sectarianism and racism.

David Trimble in his day and Peter Robinson, despite some positive periods, have undermined their role as First Minister.

Instead of actively and determinedly working with the Deputy First Minister to maximise the potential for a new beginning they have minimised the promise and potential of the Good Friday Agreement.

The DUP is undermining the institutions

Last year the leaderships of political unionism ignored the democratic decision of Belfast City Council on the flying of the union flag and helped stoke months of street disturbances and attacks on the Alliance Party and threats against Sinn Féin

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disturbances and attacks on the Alliance Party and threats against Sinn Féin members.

Later Peter Robinson reneged on the Programme for Government commitment to develop the old Maze/Long Kesh site.

This commitment was to create an economic hub with the potential for thousands of much needed jobs alongside a peace and conflict resolution centre with enormous tourism and education potential.

Money from the EU and private money from the USA had been secured.

The announcement of the breaking of this Programme for Government commitment was contained in a letter from Florida by Mr. Robinson to the DUP.

Martin McGuinness was given no notice of this and neither was he contacted by Peter Robinson after the letter was publicised.

This was bad manners, bad politics and bad economics.

Job creation opportunities were lost.

That has increasingly been the mark of the DUP's participation in the political institutions, within the Executive, and within the Office of OFMDFM over the last year.

The DUP has repeatedly demonstrated an unwillingness to participate positively in any of the institutions.

Instead it has adopted a tactical approach aimed at serving the political agenda of a fundamentalist rump in their party rather than the needs of the whole community.

As Martin McGuinness has noted *'We are in government with unionists because we want to be. They are in government with us because they have to be.'*

In other words the DUP and UUP have bought into the political institutions in terms of elections, salaries, and status but not into the need for real partnership government, the effective development of north-south co-operation, equality, mutual respect and parity of esteem.

This overall shift to the right has left the DUP's tactical engagement with the institutions threadbare.

The strategy of stalling and blocking has seriously undermined the credibility of the Assembly and Executive.

This has been added to by the assertion of some that the difficulties in the institutions are the fault of two dysfunctional parties, that is Sinn Féin and the DUP.

This idea is pedalled by elements in the media, the Fianna Fáil leader and Irish government spokespersons.

This despite all of the evidence to the contrary, including the positive and patient role of Martin McGuinness.

An anti-Agreement axis

After years of refusal by the unionist parties to engage properly to resolve issues which were dogging the political process US diplomat Richard Haass and Professor Meghan O Sullivan were invited by OFMDFM to facilitate a process to bring forward proposals to deal with the past, contentious parades and issues of identity.

When these two eminent public servants brought forward proposals based on discussions with all of the political parties and a outreach into civic society they were rejected by the unionist parties.

Subsequently after the elections the DUP and UUP forged a negative political axis with the Loyal Orders, the parties linked to the UDA and UVF and Jim Allister's Traditional Unionist Voice.

Within 48 hours of all-party negotiations commencing they staged a walk out over the Parades Commissions determination on the Ardoyne march.

But the walk out was never really about Ardoyne and the right of the orange to march.

There are more loyalist and orange parades taking place this year than ever before.

Nine years ago in 2005 there were 2120 marches in the north.

By last year that had more than doubled to 4,637.

Two thirds of these are loyalist parades.

Claims by unionists and loyalists that the objections of a handful of nationalist areas to orange parades going through their communities is an attack on the Orange is clearly a nonsense.

The construction of an anti-Agreement unionist axis and the walk out are part of a unionist political agenda aimed at subverting the Good Friday Agreement and its equality and parity of esteem ethos.

It's about turning the clock back to the days when unionism was dominant.

The anti-Good Friday Agreement axis within unionism, the pro-unionist stance of the British secretary of state, the refusal of Downing St to honour its own obligations, and its efforts to impose cuts in the welfare system, are combining to create the most serious threat to the political institutions in the north in recent years.

The result of all of this is directly undermining power sharing and partnership government.

A partisan British government

The unionist leaderships have been encouraged in their posture by a British government that has not been fully engaged with the political process for four years.

Evidence of this can be found in the British failure to back the Haass compromise proposals on dealing with the past and legacy issues, flags and symbols, and parades.

It can be found in the speed with which the Cameron government acquiesced to Peter Robinson's demand for the establishment of the Hallett Inquiry into the OTR issue.

It is a fact that the Cameron government, like the Major government in the 1990's, has been explicitly partisan in championing a unionist agenda.

The Tory government has also failed to make progress on those matters arising out of the various agreements, including the Good Friday Agreement, the Weston Park Agreement, and the St Andrew's and Hillsborough agreements which have not been implemented.

These include the Bill of Rights, the all-Ireland Charter of Rights, Acht na Gaeilge, the North South Consultative Forum, the Civic Forum and the inquiry into the killing

of Pat Finucane. These are not matters for negotiation.

They are agreements made and are the responsibility of the British and Irish governments to implement.

The effect of all of this and of the British government's handling of the political situation has been to reinforce political logjams.

The political process is in trouble.

The British Secretary of State is contemplating conceding to another of the recent unionist demands by setting up some form of inquiry into the Parades Commission decision on the Ardoyne march – a move that would dangerously damage the integrity of the Parades Commission, undermine the residents and further undermine the Haass proposals.

In addition the Tory-led government in London wants to impose changes to the welfare benefits system mirroring similar changes that have been introduced in England, Scotland and Wales - changes that have resulted in disastrous consequences for the disabled, the unemployed and those in low paid jobs.

These should be opposed by a united Executive.

~~These changes are not about reform.~~

They are about cuts and they are part of a Thatcherite agenda designed to dismantle the welfare state. And Sinn Féin will oppose them.

Political process faces greatest challenge

Most worryingly there is no evidence from Downing Street or the NIO or the Unionist leaderships of any likelihood of a real negotiation on all of these issues commencing in September.

This therefore presents a very significant challenge to everyone who wants to see progress and to all those who support the Good Friday and other agreements. This includes leaders of civic society, the community sector, the trade union movement, the business sector, as well as political parties.

The fact is that the anti-agreement axis has been very active in asserting a negative agenda. Too many in the pro-agreement axis, with some notable exceptions have been passive. This includes the Irish government.

We are moving into another election cycle with the Westminster elections next May

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and Assembly elections the following year.

Elections invariably see unionist leaders adopt ever more strident language and an unwillingness to find solutions to difficulties.

I believe that the political process faces its greatest challenge since the Good Friday Agreement negotiations in 1998.

I also believe that the vast majority of citizens value the political institutions.

Sinn Féin is committed to the Good Friday Agreement and to the political institutions.

We will resist all efforts by unionist leaders to roll the agreement back or return to the darker days of unionist misrule.

With a deepening political crisis there is an onus on the Irish and British governments to create a different paradigm, a different political context to that which currently exists.

That requires the two governments, in conjunction with the US government, establishing a pro-Agreement axis with those parties in the north that want the Good Friday Agreement to work.

It means the Irish and British governments making progress on those issues which are their direct responsibility.

It means the governments and pro-Agreement parties standing resolutely in support of the Agreement.

This will require citizens from all sectors and none raising their voices for progress and positive change.

Regardless of political allegiance everyone who values a future based upon equality must become a champion for progress in their own community, in the workplace, in the voluntary and community sector, across the trade union movement, in the churches and the media.

If the unionist leaderships refuse to engage positively in new negotiations then the Irish and British governments, as co-equal guarantors of the Agreement, must ensure that outstanding issues are implemented.

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Final Reminder - Lecture Tonight

Ruan O'Donnell 1916

Proclamation and the American Connection

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Friends of **Sinn Féin**

USA



The 1916 Proclamation: The American Connections



Professor Ruan O'Donnell

6:30 PM Tuesday, August 5th

**The New York Irish Center
1040 Jackson Avenue.**

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LIC (Queens), NY 11101
One Stop, 5 Minutes on the
7 train from Grand Central.

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conor.c.duffy@gmail.com



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STATEMENT OF THE FRIENDS OF IRELAND CAUCUS

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STATEMENT OF THE FRIENDS OF IRELAND CAUCUS IN THE UNITED STATES CONGRESS

ON THE CURRENT STATUS OF THE PEACE PROCESS IN NORTHERN IRELAND

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE: July 16, 2014

CONTACT:

William Tranchese 202.225.5601 (Rep. Richard E. Neal)

Kevin Fogarty 202.225-7896 (Rep. Peter King)

(WASHINGTON) "The bipartisan Friends of Ireland Caucus in the United States Congress committed and sustained support for peace and reconciliation in Ireland express our concern at recent developments which run the risk of undermining the significant gains made on the island during the last 15 years and which currently

threaten the Good Friday institutions.

We call on the party leaders in Northern Ireland to re-engage and avoid any further potential negative impact on the peace process, the institutions, and on investment and tourism in the region.

We urge the five main political parties to show leadership and determination to return Northern Ireland to stable and effective government in accordance with the Good Friday Agreement and to renew talks on the Haass proposals with a view to early agreement on these contentious issues.

The Congressional Friends of Ireland stand ready to give their ongoing support and encouragement to the political parties, and to the Irish and British Governments, who together have a joint responsibility as co-guarantors of the Good Friday Agreement, along with the continued support and engagement of the Obama Administration.

We ask the Irish and British Governments to do their utmost together to pro-actively facilitate and assist the political parties and their leaders to make early progress.

Northern Ireland has been transformed through the implementation of the Good Friday Agreement towards peace, reconciliation and prosperity, and its political leaders along with the British, Irish and United States government need to ensure that progress is sustained and taken forward and not allowed to regress.

They will continue to have the support and encouragement of the Friends of Ireland Caucus in that important endeavor in the coming days and weeks."

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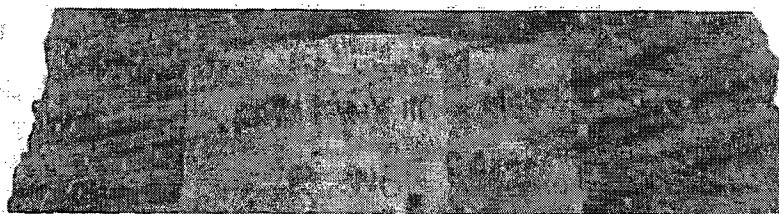


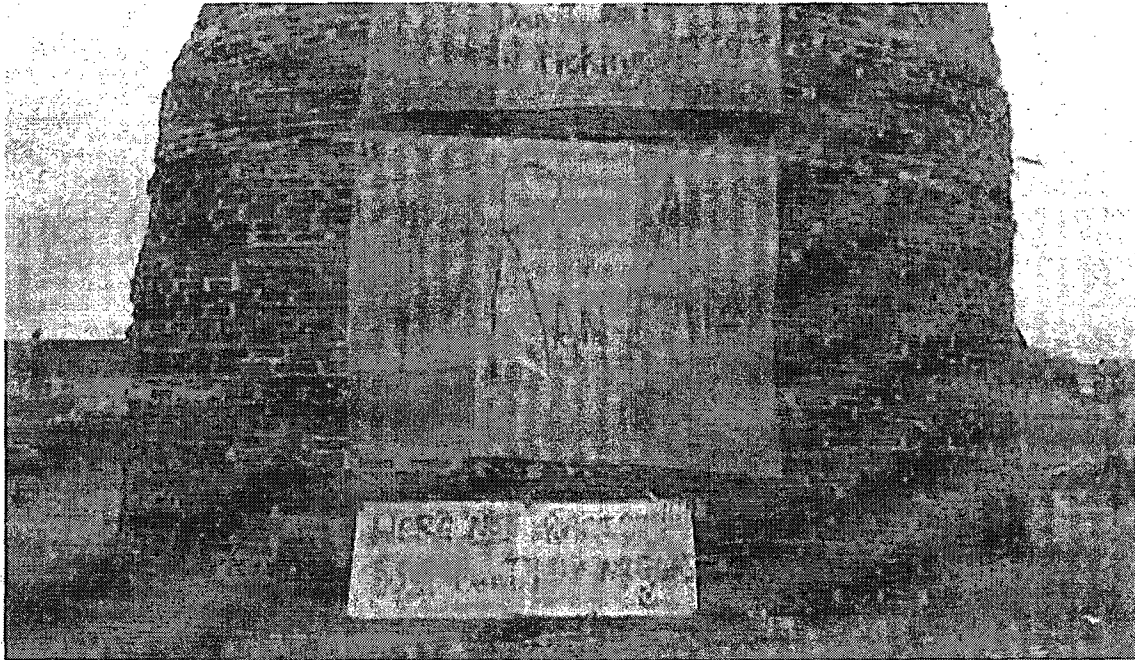
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News Letter July 2014

Orange Order Fanatics Resemble KKK more than
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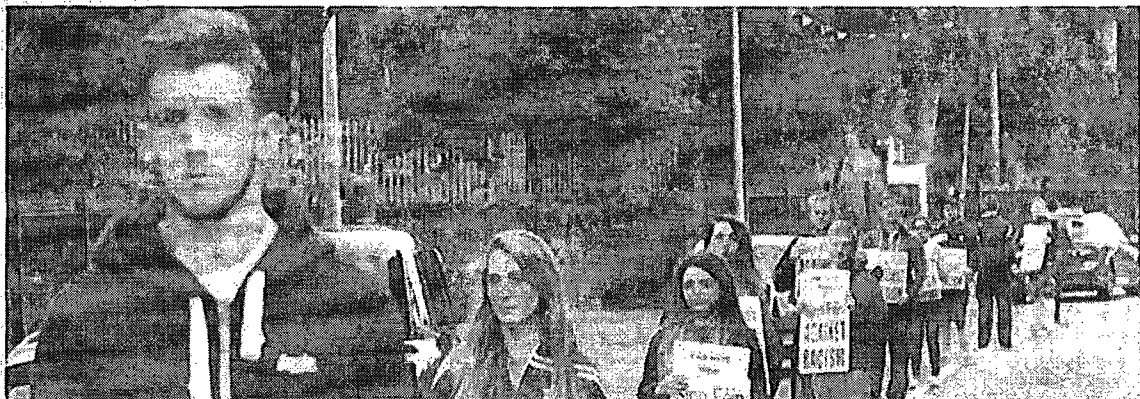


'Mrs Brown' backs campaign to save Moore Street 1916 site

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Ku Klux Klan flags in Belfast prompt Republican Youth anti-hate camp

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Unionism's 'graduated response' more about
opposition to power-sharing than parade ruling

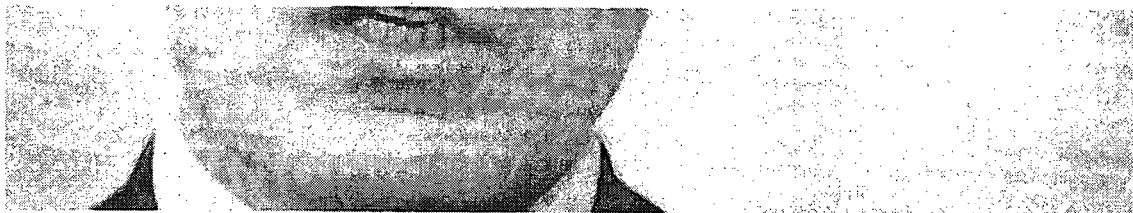
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Loughgall SAS ambush inquest blocked by minister
'in interests of national security'

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Nothing should be done to undermine Parades
Commission – Kelly





Sinn Féin MLA Gerry Kelly has said that nothing should be done to help unionists undermine the Parades Commission.

Speaking after unionist leaders and the Orange Order announced plans for protest and called for a Commission of Inquiry into the parade through nationalist Ardoyne, Mountainview and the Dales, Gerry Kelly said;

"The Parades Commission was set up and constituted by statute as an independent body to deal with disputed parades.

"Unionists are asking for a Commission of Inquiry simply because they didn't get their own way.

"Neither unionists or the British Secretary of State should do anything to undermine it.

"The myth of the hollowing out of British culture flies in the face of the facts.

"The number of parades has doubled in the last five years, the number of loyalist bands has also doubled and more than 95 per cent of all loyalist parades are uncontested.

"Walking out of talks with their partners in government and demanding that the British Secretary of State imposes a unionist solution can only raise tension and inflame the situation."

Gerry Kelly was speaking after unionist leaders and representatives of the Orange Order demanded the establishment of a commission of enquiry into the Parades Commission ruling that banned the Orange order parade from the Ardoyne Road on its return March on July 12th.

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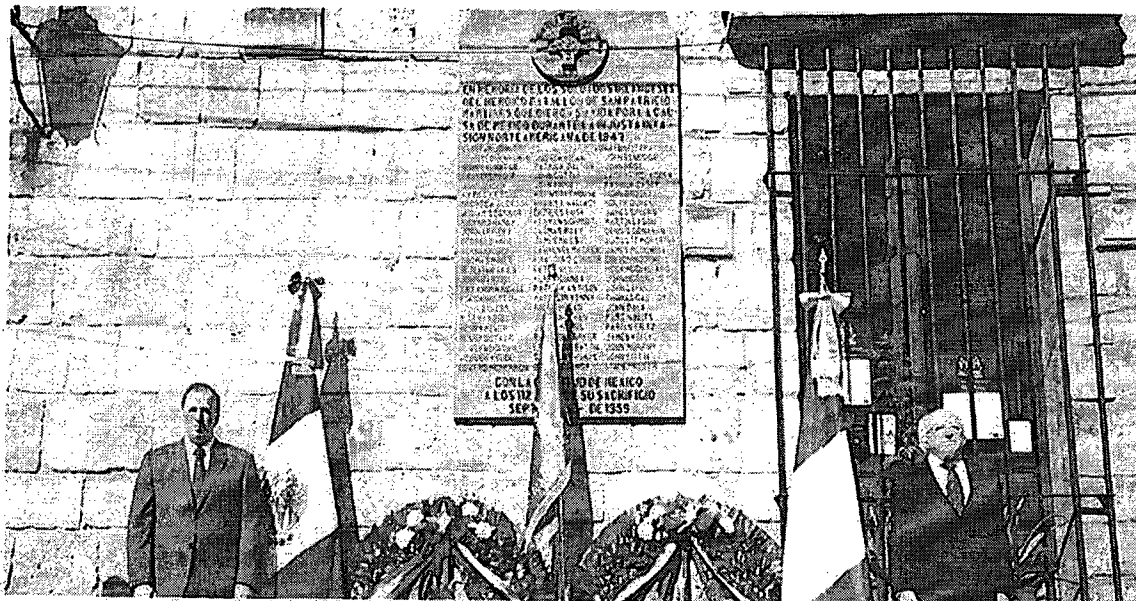
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Mexican-American Organization supports Irish Unity





Pictured is President Michael D. Higgins (right) and Jose Antonio Meade, Secretario de Relaciones Exteriores, at a wreath laying ceremony at a memorial to the 'Batallon de San Patricio'

Momentum for a United Ireland continues to build. On June 7th Casa de Cultura endorsed a resolution for a United Ireland. Stating "You have our total and unconditional support for your United Ireland Campaign."

The Las Vegas, New Mexico based organization is a Hispanic cultural group which aspires to foster trust and cohesion among diverse ethnic and social groups by participation in cultural and educational activities.

The bond between the Irish and Mexico began 160 years ago with the formation of the San Patricio Battalion, a brigade of mostly Irish American immigrants who fought on behalf of the Mexican people in the U.S.-Mexico war of 1845-46.

Last year, Irish President Higgins attended an event at the memorial to The Batallón De San Patricio in Plaza San Jacinto, San Ángel, Mexico City. In his speech President Higgins said "Historical accounts speak of the bravery of the Batallón de San Patricio, and of the tactical ability and experience of its leader, Captain John Riley. Riley, also known as O'Reilly, is commemorated in this Plaza with this bust donated by the Embassy of Ireland as a gesture of friendship between the people of Ireland and the people of Mexico."

Campaign for a United Ireland supporter Rick Trujillo commented "A number of opportunities awaits direct contact to organize the heartfelt sentiments of Chicanos, Mexicanos and Mexican Americans who honor not only the immortal valor of Sons of Ireland, our San Patricios, but also the centuries long struggle of the Irish people."

In the past few months resolutions have been adopted by the Pennsylvania House of Representatives and the City Councils of Akron and Cincinnati, Ohio. Due to the constant work of the Ancient Order of Hibernians and the Irish American Unity

the constant work of the Ancient Order of Hibernians and the Irish American Unity Conference.

PSNI appeal for information on Loughinisland 'insulting' – Hazzard



Sinn Féin MLA Chris Hazzard said today's appeal by the PSNI for information on the 20th anniversary of the Loughinisland Massacre is an "insult to people's intelligence".

And the South Down representative said the PSNI must hand over immediately all files it has on the killings to the Police Ombudsman.

Chris Hazzard said:

"The PSNI is currently doing all in its power to thwart an investigation by the Police Ombudsman into the Loughinisland Massacre of six local people 20 years ago today.

"So its fresh appeal for information is an insult to people's intelligence and to the families of the victims in particular.

"The PSNI should immediately hand over all its files on the massacre to the Police Ombudsman and actively assist his investigation into RUC/British intelligence collusion with the killers.

"There is a large body of evidence which now points to the involvement of at least two state agents in the murders.

"It's clear state agencies have made a concerted attempt to cover up the role of police and British intelligence in the planning and execution of the massacre 20 years ago.

"The PSNI needs to end its policy of denying the truth to the survivors and families of the victims of the massacre."

Villiers providing cover for unionist intransigence – Murphy



Sinn Féin MP Conor Murphy called today on British secretary of state Theresa Villiers to stop providing cover for unionism's failure to engage in the party leaders' talks process.

Speaking after British secretary of state Theresa Villiers called on parties in the north to fix a date for talks, the Newry Armagh MP said;

"Sinn Féin has been very clear in calling for talks and we have set aside ten days between now and July 3rd to facilitate the party leaders' talks process.

"Theresa Villiers is well aware that the only blockage to talks taking place is coming from political

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unionism.

"The DUP and UUP have both been dragging their feet on arranging dates for discussions to take place.

"It is also disingenuous for the British secretary of state to attempt to distance her government from responsibility for unionist intransigence.

"By failing to endorse the Haass proposals on dealing with flags, parading and the past the British government is continuing to provide cover for unionist refuseniks."

Robinson Should Engage Immediately In Party Leaders' Talks – Kelly

Sinn Féin MLA Gerry Kelly has called on DUP leader Peter Robinson to engage immediately in party leaders' talks to deal with flags, parades and the past.

Gerry Kelly was speaking after Peter Robinson announced he was cancelling a trip to Brazil geared towards inward investment.

Gerry Kelly said:

"The talks involving the party leaders need to proceed immediately and urgently. Sinn Féin has made it clear for some time now that we are committed to this.

"The DUP is well aware that Sinn Féin has cleared ten days between now and July 3rd to deal with all the issues of flags, parades and the past.

"It is essential that we put our own house in order so that we become a more attractive option for foreign investors.

"Therefore, the party leaders' talks are Sinn Féin's number one priority.

"If Peter Robinson is serious he should now seriously engage in dealing with these toxic issues.

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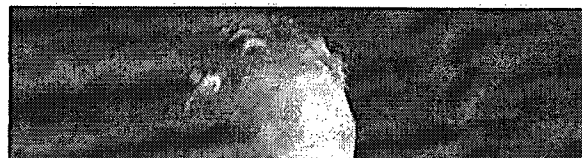
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International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers Celebrate Irish History

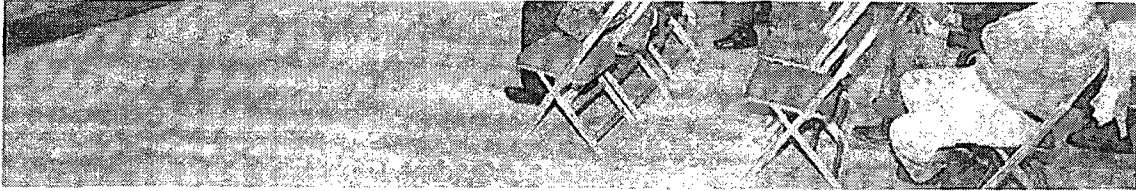
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Friends of Sinn Féin USA News Update

International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers Celebrate Irish History





The International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers hosted a two night Irish History and Cultural event on May 20th and 21st at the IBEW Local 3 Union Hall in Queens New York. There were enthusiastic audiences of more than 200 members of the Union and invited guests on each night. Business Manager Christopher Erikson and Marty Glennon co-chaired the events.

Christopher Erikson introduced the theme of the first event by saying that he had been moved to learn more about his Irish background and his roots, and he had a real desire to know about Ireland's history and the connections with organised Labor in America.

Erikson was extremely moved by the perseverance of the Irish and how they emigrated to America during the "Great Hunger" and how they rose quickly to leadership roles in the Labor movement in the US. Mr. Erikson stated that he "doesn't want to see the movement go back to nothing and work its way up again". He said, "too many before us made monumental sacrifices and it is our duty as their descendants, to continue to move forward and prosper and grow the working class".

Professor Christine Kinealy, Director of the Great Hunger Institute, at Quinnipiac University, gave a fascinating 40 minute review of Irish history. Mr. Erikson then focused on the rise of the Irish into political power in mainstream America. He acknowledged the contributions the Irish made to developing a modern day labor movement.

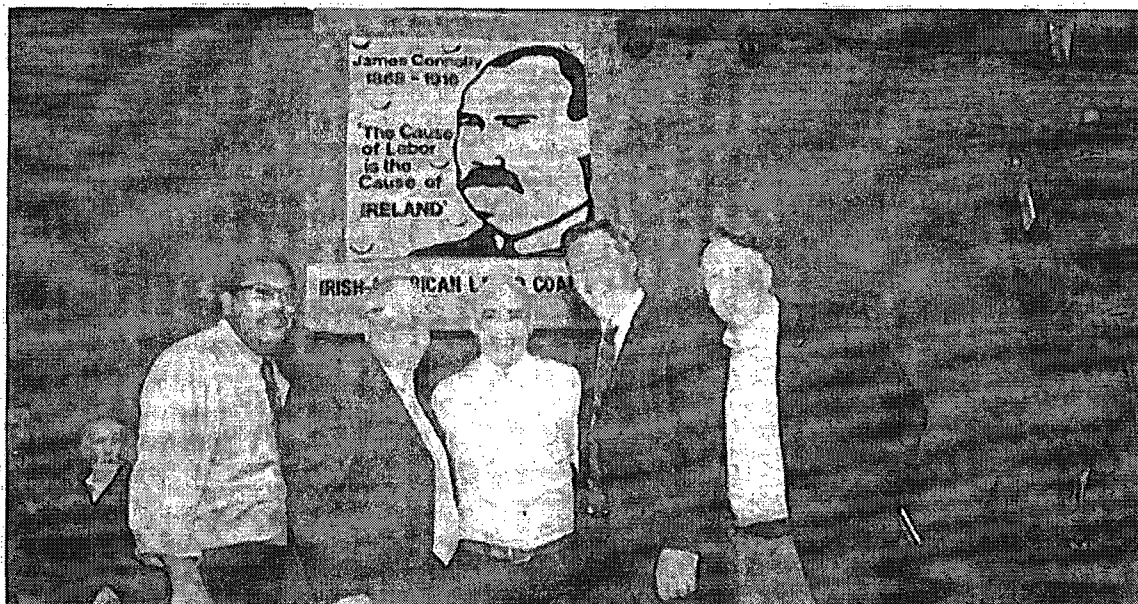
The second night, Marty Glennon gave an overview of the Dublin Lockout of 1913, followed by a brief video of the time.

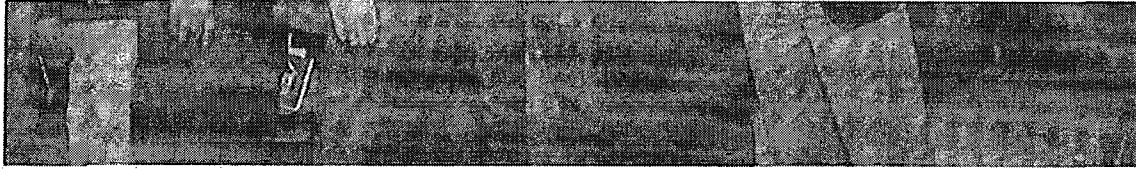
The audience was then transported to 1981 and the Hungerstrikes, a year that changed Ireland and had a profound effect in America. Tony Devlin gave one of his greatest performances in the play written and directed by him, *1981*. His depiction of the situation which caused 10 men to resort to dying on Hunger strike, stirred raw emotion in everyone

The program concluded with remarks by Marty Glennon posing the question, "Where would the working class be today if the International Workers of the World had taken hold at the beginning of the 20th century?"

The Troubles in Ireland are not Catholic against Protestant – it is the haves against the have nots. We need to come together as a working class – a world-wide working class. As James Connolly said, Our demands most modest are – We only want the earth."

The interest in these events has ensured that more events will be organized in the lead up to the 100th Anniversary of the 1916 Rising.

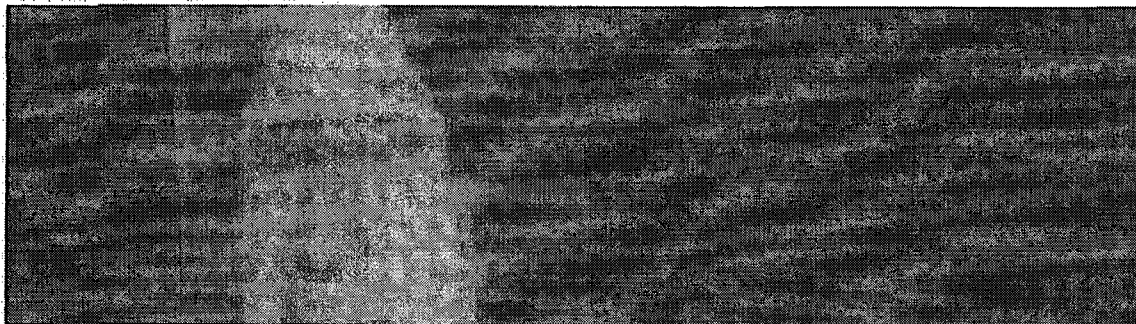




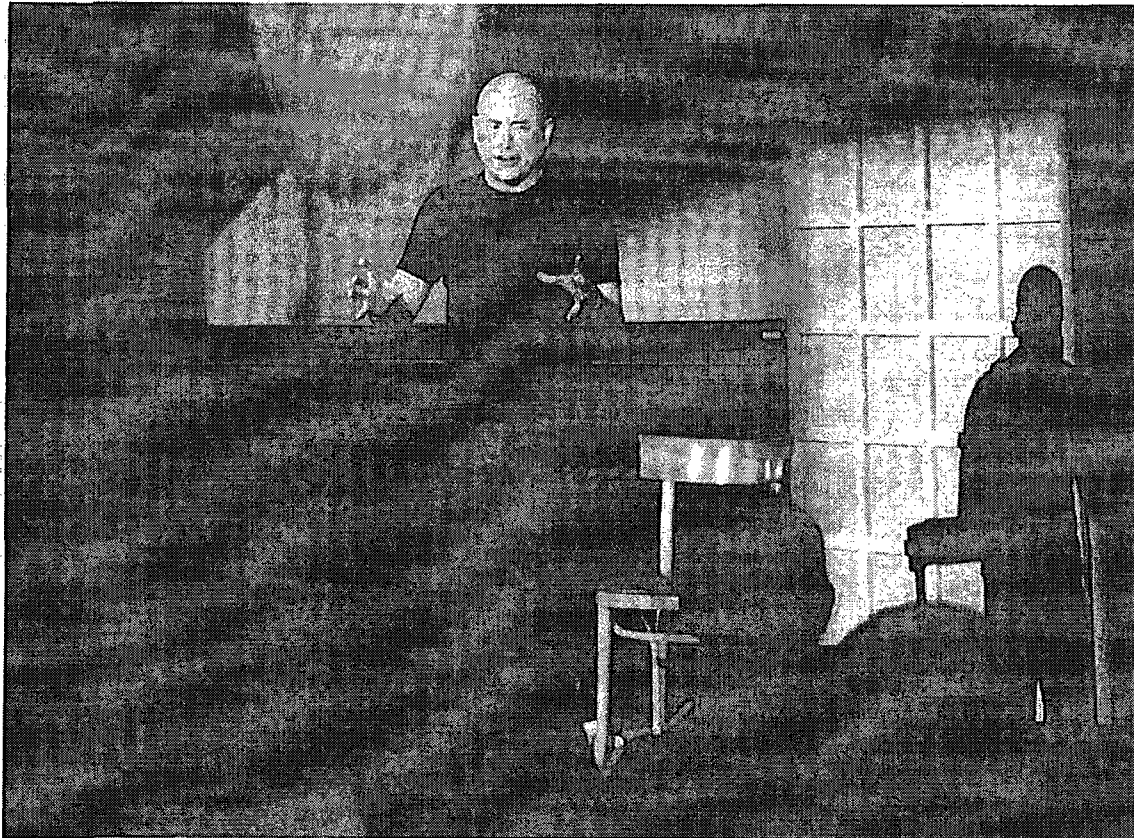
Left to Right Michael Yee; Chris Erikson; Tony Devlin (actor/writer 1981); Marty Glennon; James Baker



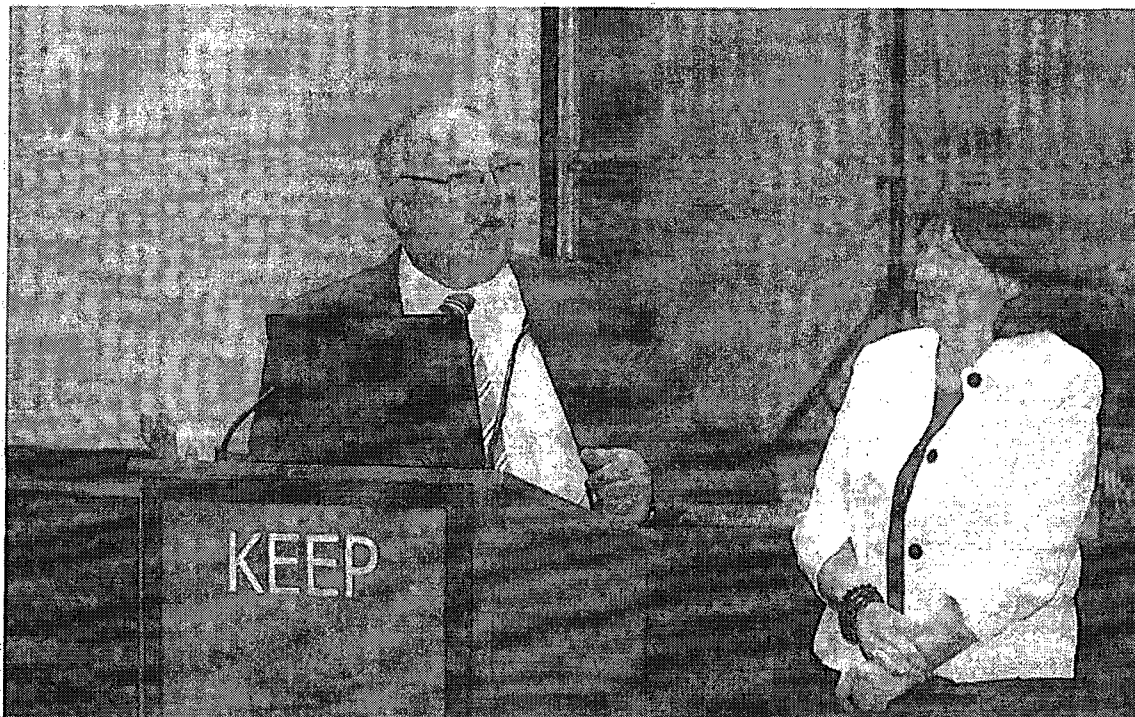
Members of IBEW applaud during 2 day event.

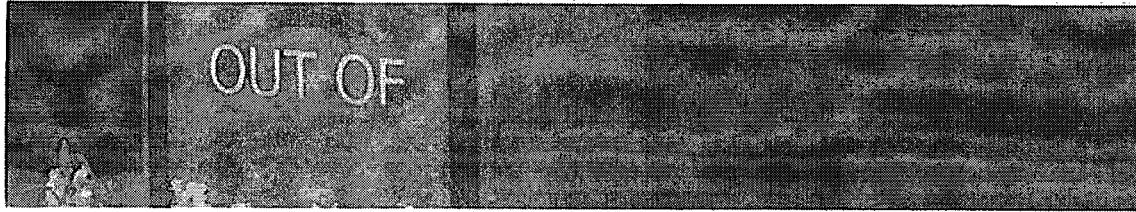


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Actor and writer Tony Devlin performing his play "1981"





Chris Erikson introduces Christine Kinealy, Director of the Great Hunger Institute, at Quinnipiac University



Christine Kinealy, Director of the Great Hunger Institute, at Quinnipiac University addresses IBEW



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Members of IBEW viewing the Sinn Féin Exhibitions which attracted great interest throughout the 2 days

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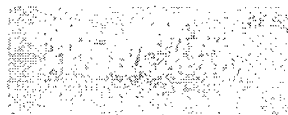
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Cincinnati Passes Unite Ireland Resolution

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Friends of Sinn Fein USA News Update

Cincinnati Passes Unite Ireland Resolution

On May 29, 2014, John Cranley, Mayor of the City of Cincinnati, Ohio, presented an enrolled resolution of the Cincinnati City Council expressing Council's support for the reunification of Northern Ireland with the Republic of Ireland. The resolution passed the City Council unanimously on May 7, 2014.

[View Resolution Here](#)

Supporters of resolution captioned below



Left to Right Mark Guilfoyle, immediate Past President of the Friendly Sons of St. Patrick of Cincinnati; Mayor John Cranley (holding resolution); Tom Hogan, native of Wexford and Trustee of the Emerald Society Police and Fire Pipe & Drum Corps.



(Front row left to right) Richard Allen, native of Belfast; Mark Guilfoyle, immediate Past President of the Friendly Sons of St. Patrick of Cincinnati; Mayor John Cranley (holding resolution); Jack Looby, Our Lady of Knock Division of the Ancient Order of Hibernians; and Bill Murray

Second row left to right) Gerry Fritsch, Secretary of the Emerald Society Police and Fire Pipe & Drum Corps; Becky Laws; Ed Adams, President of the Friendly Sons of St. Patrick of Cincinnati; Tom Hogan, native of Wexford and Trustee of the Emerald Society Police and Fire Pipe & Drum Corps; Rebecca Bugos; Eric Gill; Tim Flynn, St. Patrick's Division of the Ancient Order of Hibernians; Gary Schlegel, Our Lady of Knock Division of the Ancient Order of Hibernians; and Cathal Liam, author

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Mid June News Update FOSF USA

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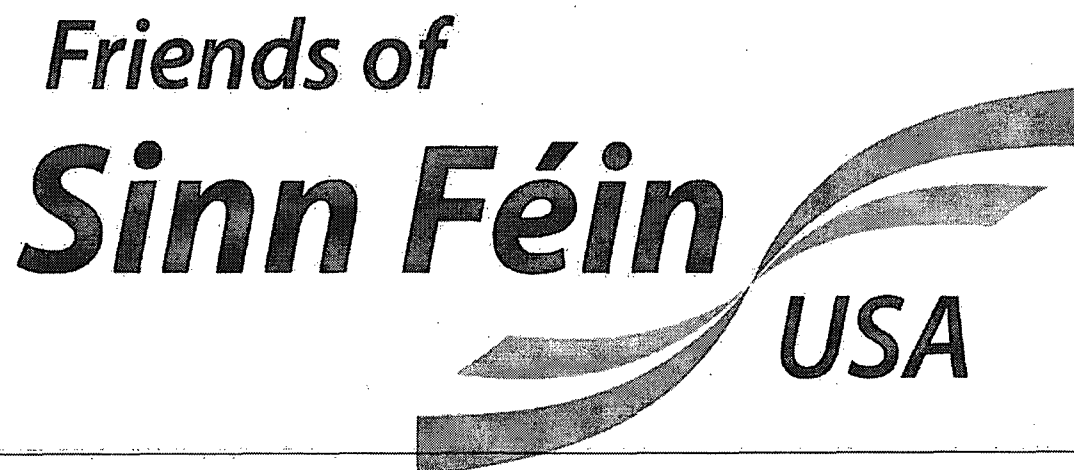
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FOSF USA News Update - June 2014

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FOSF USA News Update - June 2014

Adams Calls for Renewed Efforts on
Undocumented





Sinn Féin President Gerry Adams TD speaking in the Dáil on (Tuesday) on the issue of the undocumented Irish living and working in the USA has said that there "is an opportunity before the US election in November to push for immigration reform that would favour the undocumented Irish, but this requires significant work by the Government and our diplomatic representatives in the US."

Speaking later Mr. Adams said:

"This November will see Congressional elections take place in the USA. A third of Senate seats are also up for grabs.

At one level this is arguably the worst time to persuade US politicians to adopt a more progressive position on immigration reform. It is not popular with a section of the US electorate and has in the past been used as a political football.

However the elections are also a time when US politicians are out on the doorsteps looking for votes. The Irish American community in the USA is very powerful and can swing votes.

So too can lobby groups representing citizens from other nations affected by this issue and also seeking immigration reform.

There is therefore an opportunity to raise the case for immigration reform that favours the undocumented Irish. It will require significant work by the government and by our diplomatic resources in the USA.

This is a vitally important matter for Irish citizens in the USA and for their families at home worried by their lack of legal status. It is equally important that the government establish a clear strategy for progressing this issue in the months ahead.

The Tanaiste told me at Stormont on Monday that he is travelling to the USA to deal

with this issue. I welcome that.

The government must increase its engagement in the time ahead and intensify its lobbying campaign with the Obama administration and with congressional leaders.

Opportunity to make progress in new talks must be seized – Adams

Sinn Féin President Gerry Adams TD said today that the opportunity to deal with the issues of flags, parades and the past must be seized by party leaders in the North.

Gerry Adams was speaking after he and Deputy First Minister Martin McGuinness met with An Tánaiste Eamon Gilmore at Parliament Buildings, Stormont.

Gerry Adams said:

"We had a useful engagement with An Tánaiste Eamonn Gilmore.

"It was a working meeting and focused on the enormous challenges and difficulties facing the political process at this time. No one should underestimate these challenges.

"Sinn Féin believes there is now an opportunity to resolve these matters and that it must be seized by the party leaders.

"We have agreed to meet separately with An Taoiseach Enda Kenny and the British Prime Minister David Cameron as soon as that can be arranged.

"The party leaders in the Executive have agreed an intensive round of talks and Sinn Féin will enter into those talks positively and in the same spirit that we did the Haass talks. We are totally committed to finding a way forward.

"It's vital the Irish and British governments are more engaged in the political process and that all the political parties put their shoulder to the wheel to make progress."CRÍOCH/ENDS

We Have No Room For Racism

A New Article from Sinn Féin Chairperson Declan Kearney

[CLICK HERE FOR ARTICLE](#)

Adams welcomes appointment of US Ambassador to Ireland



Kevin F O'Malley

Sinn Féin President Gerry Adams TD has welcomed the appointment of Kevin F O'Malley as the United States Ambassador to Ireland.

Gerry Adams said:

"The appointment of Mr. O'Malley as the US Ambassador to Ireland is a very welcome step by President Obama.

US Ambassadors in Dublin have played an important role in the Irish peace process from its inception in the 1990s and as a point of conversation on issues affecting the island of Ireland and the United States, including on the issue of the undocumented.

Last week I again raised the absence of an Ambassador with senior officials in the White House and State department, and with congressional leaders.

I look forward to Mr. O'Malley's taking up his post and meeting with him in the near future."

SINN FEIN ELECTION NEWSLETTER

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Adams Praises Máirtín O Muilleoir's Year as Mayor

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Adams Praises Máirtín O Muilleoir's Year as Mayor

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Adams Praises Máirtín O Muilleoir's Year as Mayor



Sinn Féin President Gerry Adams TD this morning made a presentation to outgoing Belfast Mayor Máirtín O Muilleoir on his last day in office. It is a book about the artist

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Belfast Mayor Máirtín O Muilleoir on his last day in office. It is a book about the artist John Lavery.

Commenting on Máirtín O Muilleoir's year as Mayor Gerry Adams said:

"Each of the Sinn Féin Mayors and Deputy Mayors of Belfast, from Marie Moore and Tom Hartley, to Tierna Cunningham, Joe O Donnell, Danny Lavery, Alex Maskey and Niall O Donnghaile all brought to the role their own unique style, personality and enthusiasm.

At different times in the development of the City over recent decades they took initiatives and worked hard to represent all the citizens of Belfast. Their efforts enhanced the ability of citizens to live together.

Máirtín is a part of this proud tradition. In his year in office he demonstrated a remarkable capacity to reach out beyond political barriers and embrace all the citizens of the second largest city on the island of Ireland.

Máirtín's energy and passion for Belfast was amazing. His initiatives in support of community and jobs and investment and tourism, or for political outreach always caught the attention of the media and made a valuable contribution to the life of Belfast.

As Mayor Máirtín has stood strong against sectarianism and bigotry, and in more recent months against racism and hate crime. There can be no place in our society for these.

I thank Máirtín for his work, and Helen and their entire family for their patience. Máirtín will be a hard act to follow. He has been an exemplary First Citizen and I wish him and the clan O Muilleoir well for the future."

VIDEO CLICK BELOW

Reflections on a year as Mayor of Belfast

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Gerry Adams Visits US

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FOSF USA News Update - Adams Visits United States

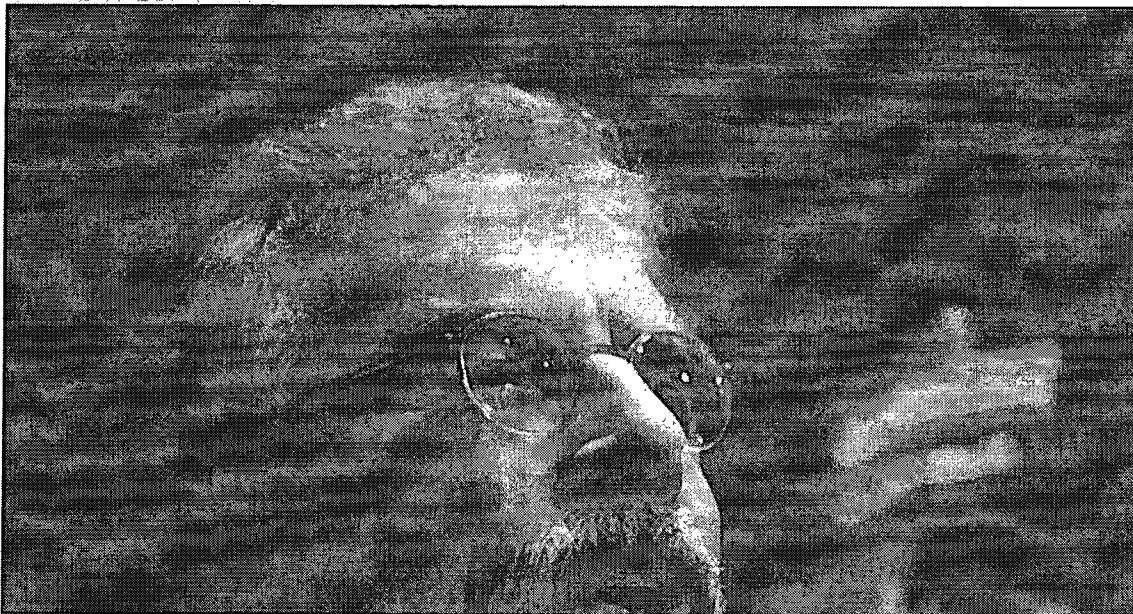
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- FOSF NEWS UPDATE -

ADAMS VISITS UNITED STATES

British Government Must Step Up to the Plate - Adams



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Sinn Féin President Gerry Adams TD is in Washington today meeting with senior political figures on Capitol Hill and officials from both the State Department and White House.

The Sinn Féin leader is briefing them on the current difficulties in the peace process and the steps that are needed to resolve them.

Mr Adams said: "The Irish and British governments cannot sit back and place responsibility for progress on the Executive parties in the north. It is clear from the 20 years of the peace process that unless the British government signs up for progress unionism will refuse to move. In the weeks ahead the British government must step up to the plate and deliver on outstanding agreements and enhance the context for new agreements on legacy issues, parades and flags and emblems."

The Sinn Féin leader said:

"The peace process is in difficulty. Much of this derives from the failure of the Irish and British governments, but especially the British government, to honour its obligations under the Good Friday and other agreements, and its refusal to support the Haass/O'Sullivan proposals.

Thus far the only contribution in recent times by the British government to the process has been to encourage unionist intransigence. Theresa Villiers, the British Secretary of State, has been explicitly partisan in championing a unionist agenda.

The effect of the British government's mishandling of the situation has been to reinforce political logjams. As a consequence politics in the north are now defined by inertia, and public confidence in the political institutions have been being undermined. This situation is unacceptable and unsustainable.

If Mr Cameron is serious about reaching agreement on the issues of contention then he needs to demonstrate a willingness to make progress on those matters arising out of the various agreements on Good Friday 1998, at Weston Park, St Andrew's and Hillsborough, which have still not been implemented.

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These include the Bill of Rights, the all-Ireland Charter of Rights, Acht na Gaeilge, the North South Consultative Forum, the Civic Forum and the inquiry into the killing of Pat Finucane. These are not matters for negotiation. They are agreements made and are the responsibility of the British and Irish governments to implement.

Nor can the Irish and British governments sit back and try to place all of the responsibility for progress on the Executive parties in the north. It is clear from the 20 years of the peace process that unless the British government signs up for progress unionism will refuse to move.

There is therefore a huge onus on Mr Cameron to take positive decisions that enhance the political context for agreement. Persuading unionist leaders to move forward through an intensive process of discussions will only work if the British government constructively engages and provides those parties with clear and positive leadership.

There is a small window of opportunity between now and July which must be fully utilised to negotiate agreements on outstanding issues, including legacy issues, parades, and flags and emblems.

The peace process is in trouble. It cannot be allowed to meander. The road has too many pitfalls. There are too many powerful elements on the fringes of nationalism, within unionism and the British system, which want to derail the process and build obstacles to it. For all the issues pressing down upon people's lives every single day, the people of this island, the diaspora and the international community believe in the peace process. Our efforts in the time ahead must be to ensure continuing progress and the full implementation of outstanding issues."ENDS/CRÍOCH

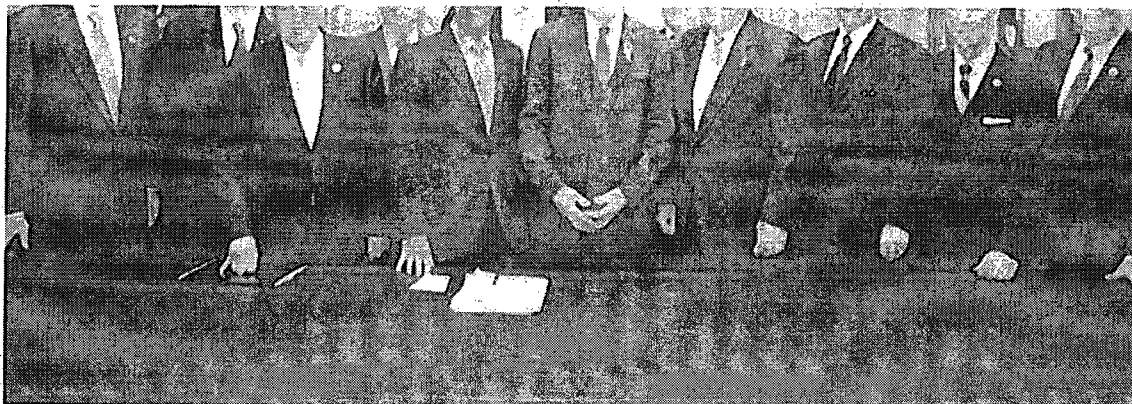
Gerry Adams with Congressional Friends of Ireland



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Congressional Friends of Ireland meeting with Sinn Féin President Gerry Adams in the Capitol in Washington DC on Thursday 29th.

William Keating, Joe Kennedy, Bill Pascrell, Peter Welch, Richard Neal, Joe Crowley, Gerry Adams, Mike Capuano, Peter King, Brian Higgins, Stephen Lynch, Jim McDermott.

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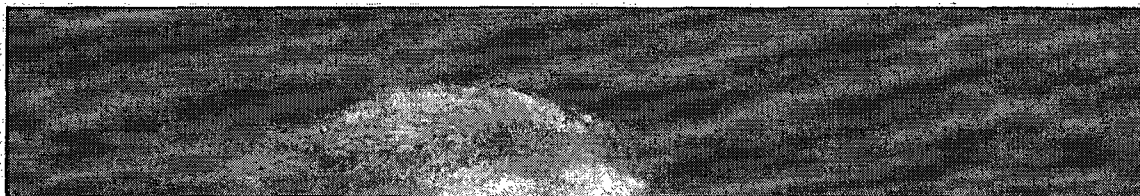
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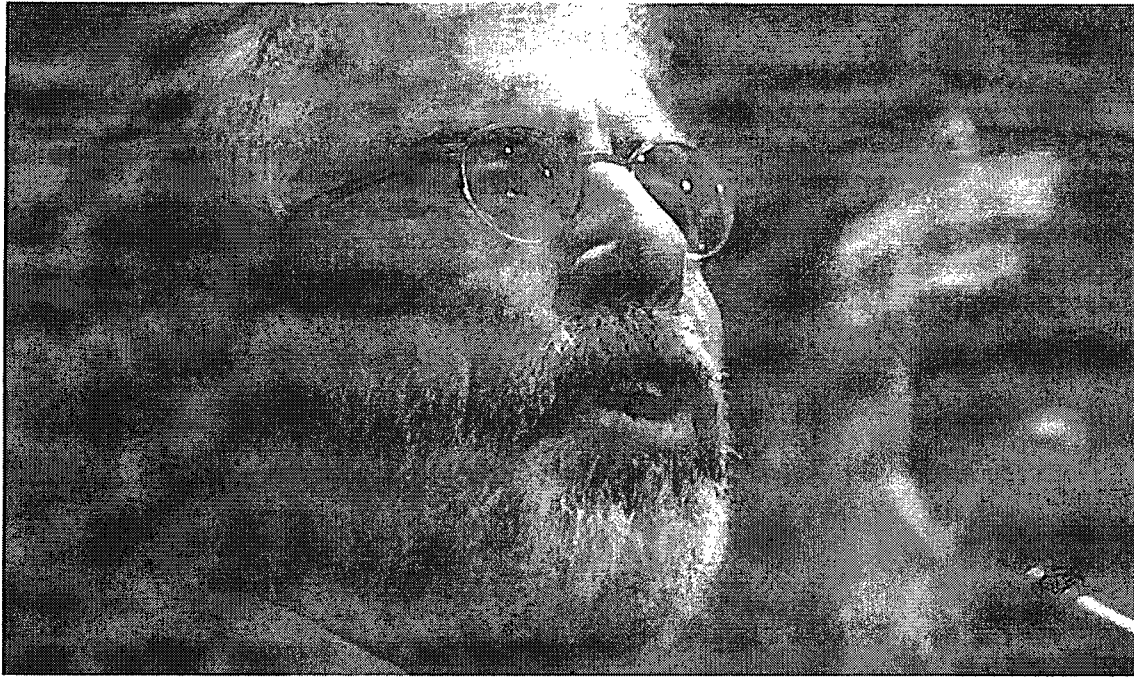
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FOSF USA News Update May 28, 2014

Gerry Adams to brief Obama administration on Peace Process





Sinn Féin Leader Gerry Adams TD, speaking this morning as he departed for the United States to brief senior politicians and the Obama administration in Washington DC said:

"Notwithstanding challenges facing the Government, the Taoiseach must ensure that the British Government faces up to its responsibilities as co-guarantor of the Good Friday Agreement.

"Outstanding elements like a Bill Of Rights, Acht na Gaeilge and other issues such as dealing with the past, parades and flags, must be delivered upon.

"The Haass/O'Sullivan proposals offer a way forward. The British Government has not signed up for these.

"The Obama administration and Irish America have a role in encouraging meaningful processes to implement these necessary and long overdue rights for citizens in North.

"Martin McGuinness will meet with all political leaders in the North to seek to avail of the small window of opportunity that exists for progress between now and the Orange marching season. Further delay on these issues would be inexcusable." ENDS/CRIOCH

McGuinness calls on British government to endorse Haass

Deputy First Minister Martin McGuinness has called on the British government to demonstrate its commitment to dealing with the past by endorsing the Haass proposals.

Speaking after British Prime Minister David Cameron's challenge to the

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Speaking after British Prime Minister David Cameron challenged parties in the North to address the legacy of the past, Mr McGuinness said;

"If David Cameron is serious about building a genuinely shared future here then his government needs to sign up to the Haass proposals, something which he has so far failed to do.

"He also needs to encourage others to do the same. The failure of political unionism to engage in a meaningful process to deal with the legacy of the past has stalled progress."

Mr McGuinness also said the British government cannot ignore or conceal the role of its state forces in the conflict.

"David Cameron has said he does not want a single narrative on the past. He and his government can contribute to building a complete narrative on the past by telling the truth about the role of British state forces in the conflict including the control and manipulation of loyalist death squads." **Ends/Críoch**

Stunning Sinn Féin Election Success VIDEO **CLICK HERE**

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Resolutions for United Ireland Passed In United States

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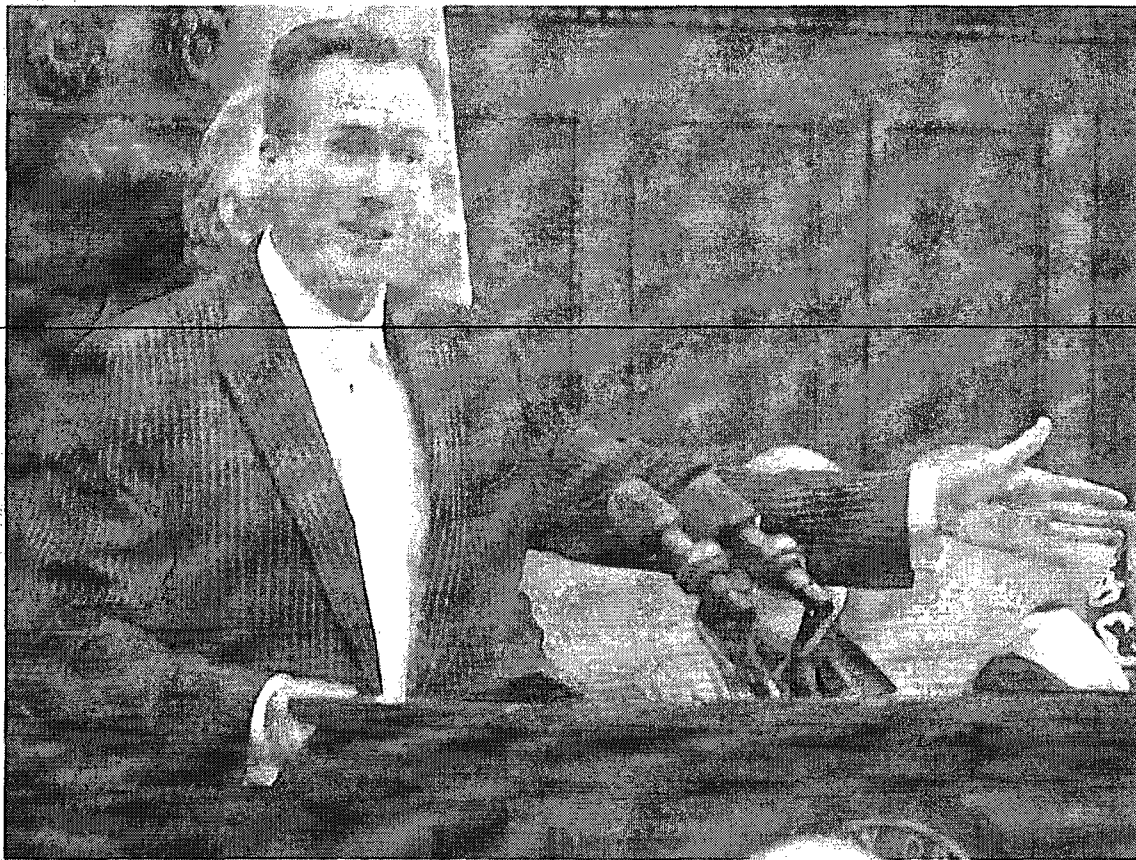
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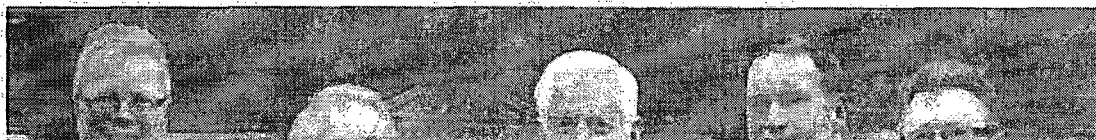
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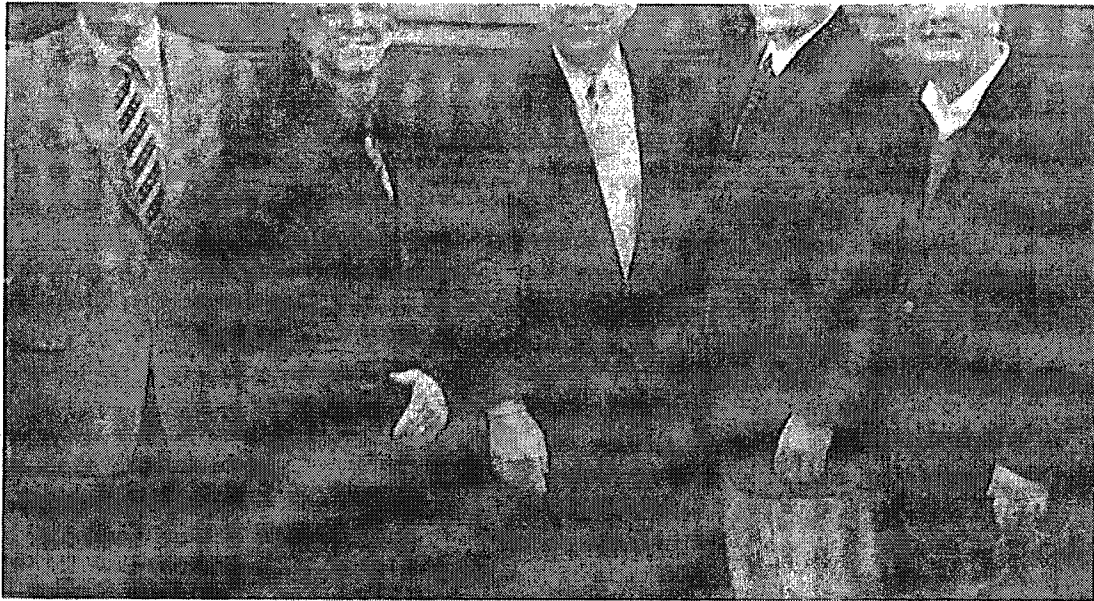
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UNITY BEST FUTURE FOR IRELAND



Pennsylvania Senator Mike Stack





Unite Ireland Resolution Passed in Akron Ohio

Pictured following the council meeting are Danny O'Connell, National Treasurer; Councilman James P. Hurley III, AOH member; Mayor Donald L. Plusquellic; Denny Parks, Ohio State Director; and Mike McKenzie Ohio State President.

RESOLUTIONS declaring support for Irish Unity have been passed in two Ohio cities and by the great State of Pennsylvania.

The Pennsylvania House of Representatives passed a Resolution calling for an end to the partition of Ireland with the words;

"The House of Representatives of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania expresses its strong support for the policies and peaceful democratic processes set forth in the Good Friday Agreement that allow for the reunification of Ireland and its people"

Pennsylvania State Senate passed a similar Resolution a year ago.

The cities of Philadelphia and Pittsburg have also passed Unite Ireland Resolutions.

This is due to the consistent work of members of the Irish American organizations.

In Ohio the City Council of Akron passed a Resolution declaring that unity guarantees a future that will embrace all the Irish people. This was a result of the work of the Hibernians who have made support for the achievement of Irish Unity a

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priority.

The resolution was put by Council member James P Hurley 111, himself an AOH member.

And in another Ohio City, Cincinnati, the Mayor John Cranley put the motion, which was unanimously passed on May 7th, which includes the words;

"That the Mayor and this Council strongly support Irish reunification and urge the Ohio Congressional delegation to support all peaceful actions that support the reunification of Ireland by all electoral and diplomatic means necessary."

These Resolutions will be added to the list of Towns, Cities and States across America which have passed similar motions.

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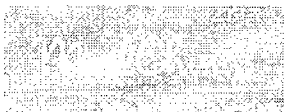
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Adams to Brief Senior Politicians in USA

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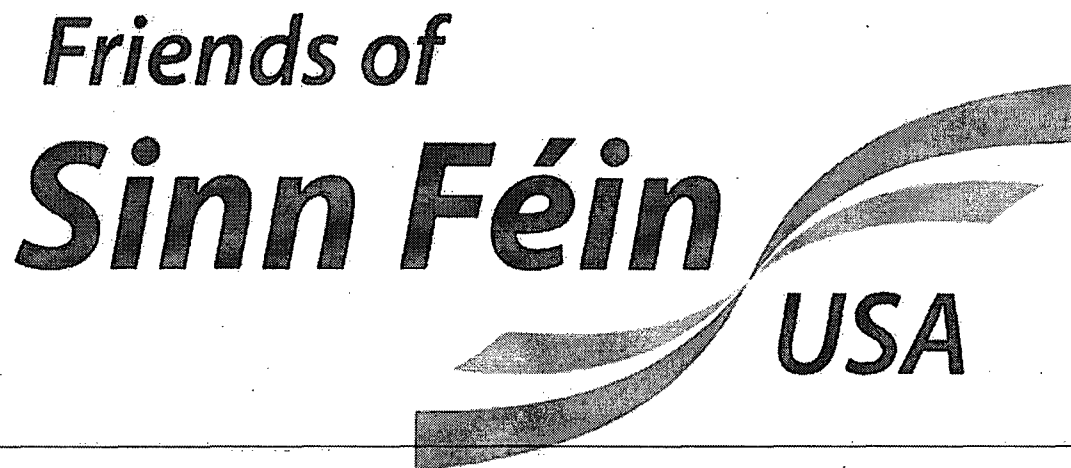
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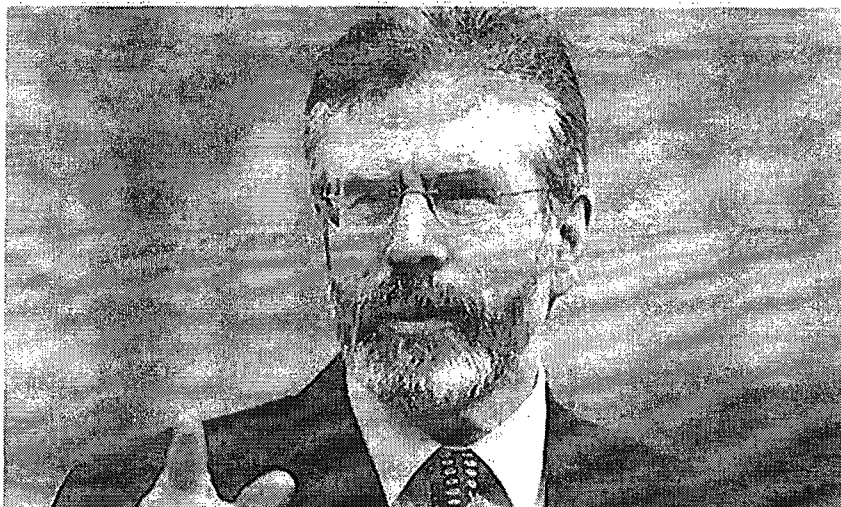
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Adams to brief senior politicians in USA

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Adams to brief senior politicians in USA



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19/5/14

Sinn Féin President Gerry Adams TD is to travel to Washington immediately after the EU and local government elections to brief senior political leaders there and the US State Department on the current concerns about the peace process.

Mr. Adams said:

"The peace process is facing some turbulence at this time as a result of the failure of the British government to deal with outstanding issues arising from the Good Friday Agreement; its refusal to sign up for the Haass compromise proposals on dealing with legacy issues and the past and its wooing of the DUP at Westminster as a possible partner or ally in the event of a hung Parliament next year after the British general election.

"The negative stance of the British government is also encouraging the Unionist parties not to engage fully in the political process and institutions."

The Sinn Féin leader added:

"The peace process cannot be allowed to meander. The road has too many pitfalls. There are too many powerful elements on the fringes of nationalism, within unionism and the British system who want to derail the process and build obstacles to it.

"Every effort must be made to highlight the problems that currently exist and to chart a way through these dangers.

"My visit to Washington next week is to highlight these issues and concerns and to seek a renewed focus and support for the peace process and the full implementation of the Good Friday Agreement." Ends/Críoch

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Cincinnati, Ohio passed the attached resolution supporting Irish Unity

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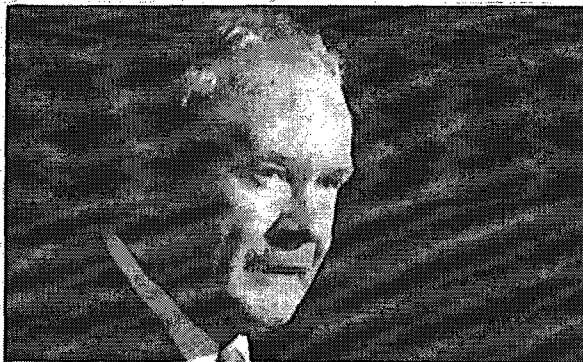
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Friends of Sinn Fein News Letter - May 20th 2014



Unionist leaders failing to denounce sectarianism and racism - McGuinness

11/12/2014

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Responding to comments by Peter Robinson during Question Time today, deputy First Minister Martin McGuinness MLA said;

"During my time as deputy First Minister, I have tried to avoid recriminating about the past. In response to Peter Robinson's comments today I could raise many issues around unionist politicians involvement in the Ulster Workers strike, collusion with loyalist paramilitaries and the setting up and import of arms by Ulster Resistance.

"But in retreating into the past, Peter Robinson misses entirely the point. When I talk about a failure of leadership and political cowardice, I am talking about the here and now.

"I am talking about the failure of unionist leaders to stand shoulder to shoulder with the rest of us in denouncing the squalid sectarian and racist violence of the UVF; the failure to name and condemn the UVF; and the attempts to divert attention and implicitly excuse the UVF in a quest for extreme loyalist votes.

"I have stood shoulder to shoulder with unionist leaders in condemning the activities of so-called dissident republicans.

"We have not seen the same united approach in response to UVF-orchestrated violence against isolated members of our ethnic minority communities, against the small nationalist community of the Short Strand, against the PSNI during the flag protests or against Alliance party offices." **Ends/Críoch**

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ANDERSON MEETS VICTIMS OF COLLUSION

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ANDERSON MEETS VICTIMS OF COLLUSION

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Anderson Meets Victims of Collusion



For immediate release 16/5/14

Sinn Féin MEP Martina Anderson has met with relatives of victims of collusion in Belfast today.

Speaking following the meeting on the eve of the 40th anniversary of the Dublin and Monaghan bombings which killed 34 people, Ms Anderson said;

"I met with families of victims of collusion today as part on Sinn Féin's ongoing engagement with victims' groups.

"Earlier this year I hosted a 30-strong delegation at the European Parliament in Brussels made up of a range of victims' groups, including those killed by British state forces and collusion.

"The delegation included Justice for the Forgotten, which represents the families of those killed in the Dublin and Monaghan bombings, Relatives for Justice, and the Pat Finucane Centre.

"MEPs from other countries were shocked by the powerful testimony of the families as they learned about the extend of Britain's dirty war in Ireland.

"At today's meeting I updated the families on the progress made since then, including a meeting I facilitated between the Human Right Commissioner and Niall Murphy from Relatives for Justice and Paul O'Connor from the Pat Finucane Centre.

"They discussed Britain's non-compliance with article 2 of the European Convention on Human Rights, the right to life.

"Meetings have also been held with officials from the European Court of Human Rights over Britain's failure to live up to its responsibilities to meet the demand from victims groups for truth and justice." **Ends/Críoch**

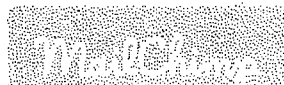
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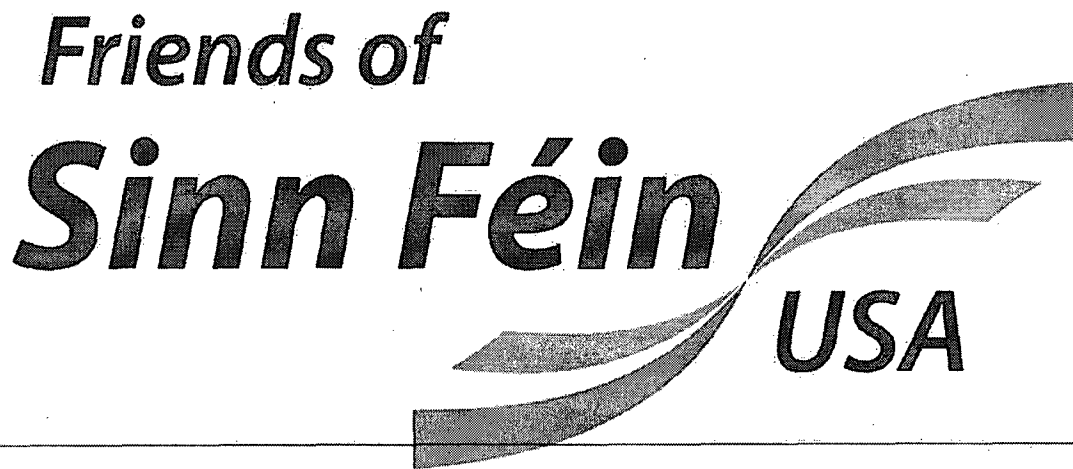
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Friends of Sinn Féin USA Newsletter May 2014

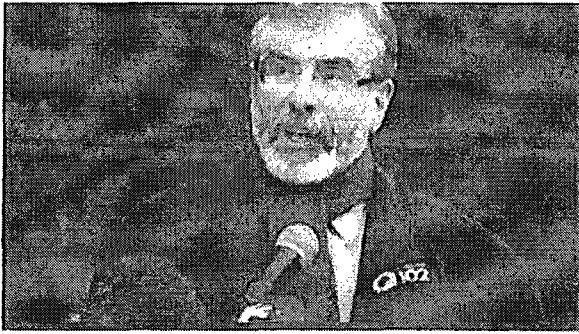
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May 15 2014 FOSF USA News Update

Adams welcomes Taoiseach's decision to visit
Ballymurphy

May 13 2014



Sinn Féin President Gerry Adams TD has welcomed the decision by An Taoiseach Enda Kenny to visit the Ballymurphy area with the families of those killed in 1971.

Mr. Adams also welcomed the Taoiseach's commitment to introduce into the Dáil an all-party Oireachtas motion of support for the Ballymurphy families.

Speaking in the Dáil today –Tuesday – Gerry Adams raised the decision by the British Secretary of State to refuse the request by the families for a review of the events that led to the killing of 11 residents by the British Parachute Regiment. The Sinn Féin leader also criticized Theresa Villiers attempt to create a hierarchy of victims.

Mr. Adams said:

"Three weeks ago the British Secretary of State Theresa Villiers criticised what she described as the one sided focus on state killings.

A week later she announced her decision not to allow for the review of events which the families have requested. She also refused a similar request from the families of the La Mon attack.

This weekend will mark the 40th anniversary of the Dublin Monaghan bombs which killed 34 citizens. A Dáil report into these bomb attacks described them as '*acts of international terrorism that were colluded in by the British security forces*'. *The British government has consistently refused to hand over information requested of it by successive Irish governments.*

Theresa Villiers remarks, and her decisions, are a clear attempt by the British government to create a hierarchy of victims in which those killed directly by the British state and indirectly by it through state collusion with unionist death squads, are treated as second class.

This is unacceptable."

In his remarks An Taoiseach Enda Kenny reiterated his support for the Ballymurphy Massacre campaign; said that he was only informed the evening before of the British Secretary of State's decision and that he will visit the Ballymurphy area on his next visit to Belfast. The Taoiseach also said that the government would be bringing a motion of support to the Dáil which would be discussed and agreed beforehand with all of the parties.

Anderson Backs Dublin / Monaghan families' Legal Action



Sinn Féin MEP Martina Anderson called on the British government to make available all files relating to the Dublin/Monaghan bombings of 1974. Martina Anderson was speaking after news that a legal action is being taken against the British government by victims of the bombings Derek Byrne and Paddy Askin. Derek Byrne was injured in one of the explosions which Paddy Askin's father was killed in the blasts.

Martina Anderson said:

"I hosted members of the Justice for the Forgotten group earlier this year in Europe. They were part of a delegation of people whose loved ones were killed or injured by British state forces and their loyalist death squads.

"I fully support their civil action against the British Ministry of Defence who continue to frustrate the families' quest for truth. This would not have been necessary if the British government had carried out a proper investigation into the killings of the 34 people who died 40 years ago.

"At least two known British agents are believed to have been involved in these indiscriminate bombings and were protected and given immunity from prosecution by the British government.

"The British government also withheld vital information from the inquiry into the bombings by former Irish Supreme Court Judge, Henry Barron.

Judge Barron said in his report on the bombings in 2003 there were grounds to suspect the perpetrators may have had help from the British state forces.

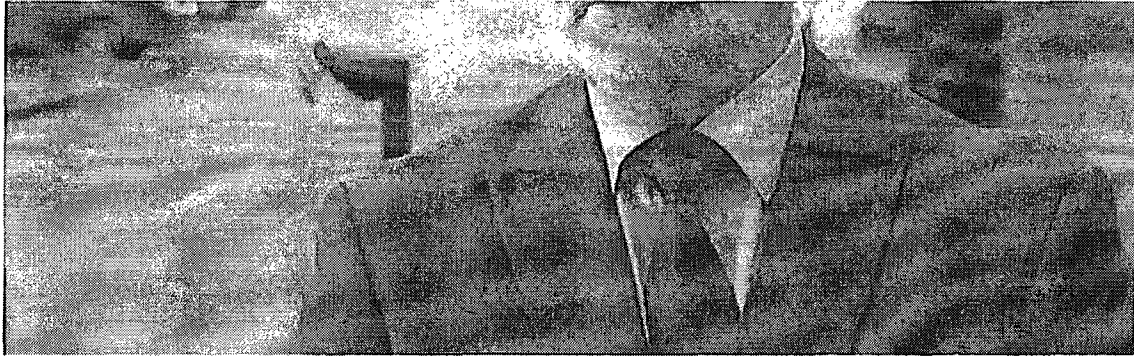
"The Irish government is not immune from criticism in this and other cases where there was evidence of the involvement of British state forces or loyalist death squads in the deaths of Irish citizens.

~~"It failed its citizens by not carrying out a proper investigation.~~

"I would urge the Irish government therefore to provide whatever assistance the families need to progress this legal action in an bid to afford the families the prospect of truth if not justice." END/CRÍOCH

Maskey Challenges DUP on UVF Role in Racist Attacks





Sinn Féin MLA Alex Maskey has challenged the DUP to make a clear condemnation of UVF involvement in racist attacks in Belfast.

Speaking after recent racist attacks in a number of areas of the city, the South Belfast MLA said;

"It is absolutely clear the UVF is involved in these disgraceful racist attacks. PSNI Assistant Chief Constable Will Kerr has made that very clear in two statements on April 3 and May 6.

"The DUP now appears to be moving from a position of silence on UVF involvement in racist attacks to providing cover for the UVF.

"Does the DUP accept the clear statement from the PSNI that the UVF are responsible for these attacks and in fact have contributed to a 70 per cent rise in hate crime?

"There is a view that the DUP is refusing to confront the issue of UVF orchestration of hate crime in a bid to garner loyalist support in forthcoming elections.

"What people want to hear is the DUP stating unequivocally what everybody else knows, that the UVF are active in east Belfast. It has been involved in a whole litany of incidents including attacks on the Short Strand, the shooting of Jemma McGrath, the attack on police officers outside the Alliance party's office and the most recent spate of racist attacks.

"The DUP needs to front up against the racists and the thugs and stand shoulder to shoulder with all those who abhor these attacks.

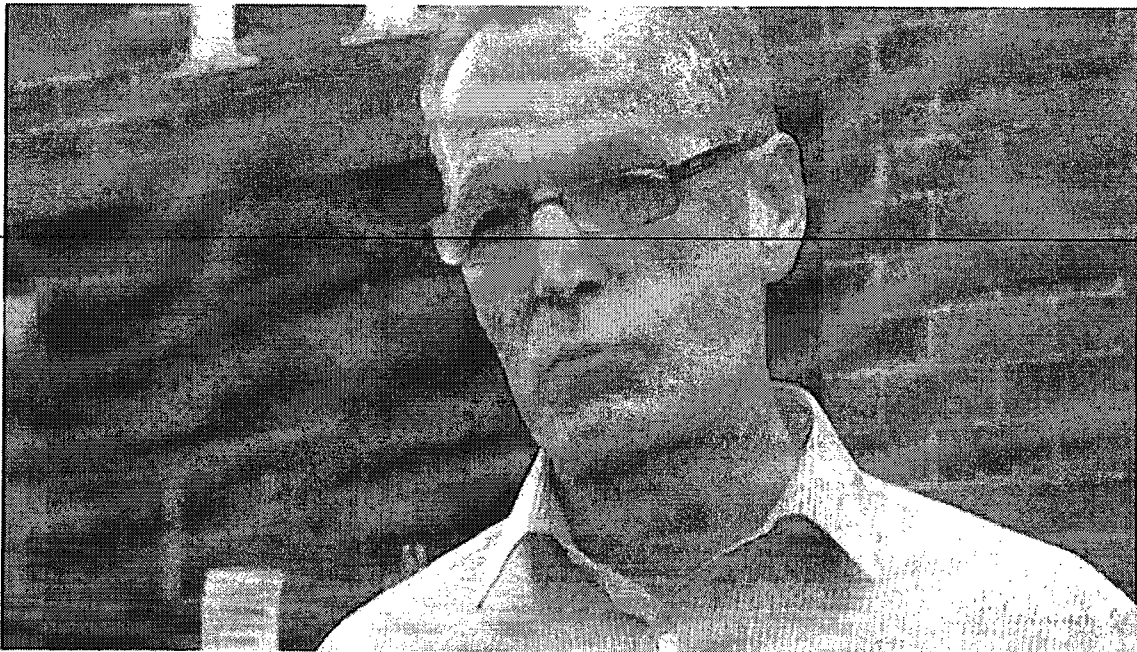
"There must be no political vacuum, which could be exploited by those behind these cowardly attacks on ethnic minorities across Belfast." ENDS/CRIOCH

PRESS RELEASE BY KRW LAW

Families of Dublin / Monaghan Bombing to sue British Government

[CLICK HERE FOR PRESS RELEASE](#)

PSNI Actions on Past Must Speak Louder Than Words - Gerry Kelly



Sinn Féin Policing spokesperson Gerry Kelly said today that the PSNI's actions on investigating the past speak louder than words.

Gerry Kelly was commenting after a senior police officer told the PSNI's Superintendents' Association that investigations are carried out 'without fear or favour'.

The North Belfast MLA said;

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"Sinn Féin supports policing where no one is placed above the law and where investigations are carried out without fear or favour.

"However, that clearly is not the case when the PSNI is dealing with issues connected to the past.

"In the last fortnight alone we have learned that there will be no action taken against the MRF killers of nationalist civilians in Belfast, no inquiry into the actions of the soldiers who killed the Ballymurphy 11.

"The families of the victims of the Dublin/Monaghan bombings in which 34 people were killed have been forced to take a civil action against the British government as a mechanism of last resort.

"They have had to go down this route exactly because the British government has frustrated all efforts to conduct an investigation into the role of its intelligence services in the killings.

"So if the Superintendents' Association wants to be taken seriously on its claim that all investigations are carried out 'without fear or favour' then action on these issues would speak louder than words.

"Sinn Féin is on record that we need an independent international truth mechanism to deal with issues arising out of the conflict and that the recent Haass proposals is an opportunity to begin that process." **Ends/Críoch**

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SF Delegation Visits U.S. for Easter Commemorations

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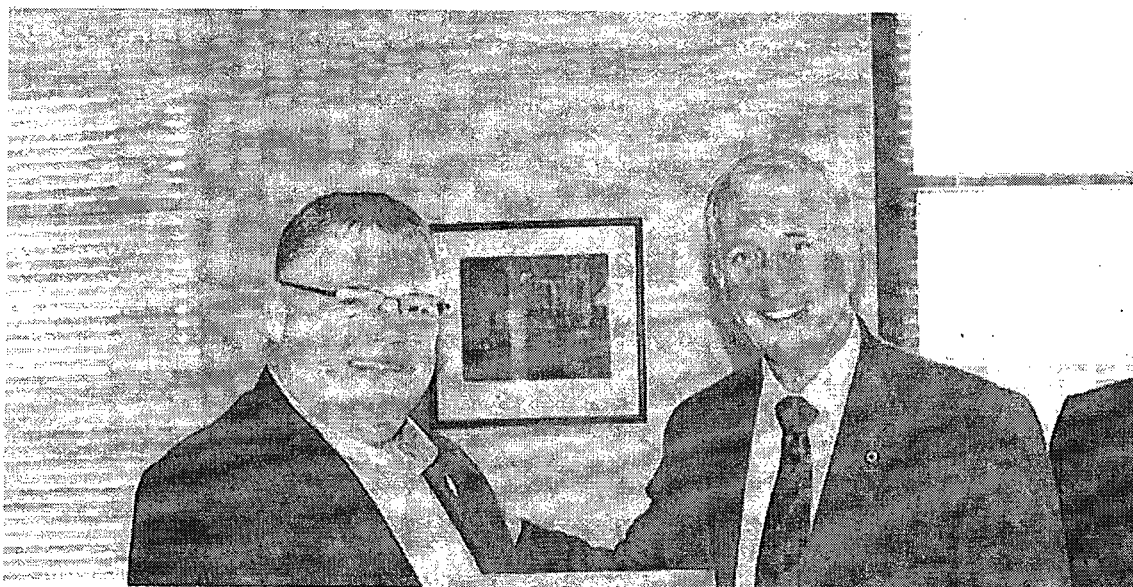
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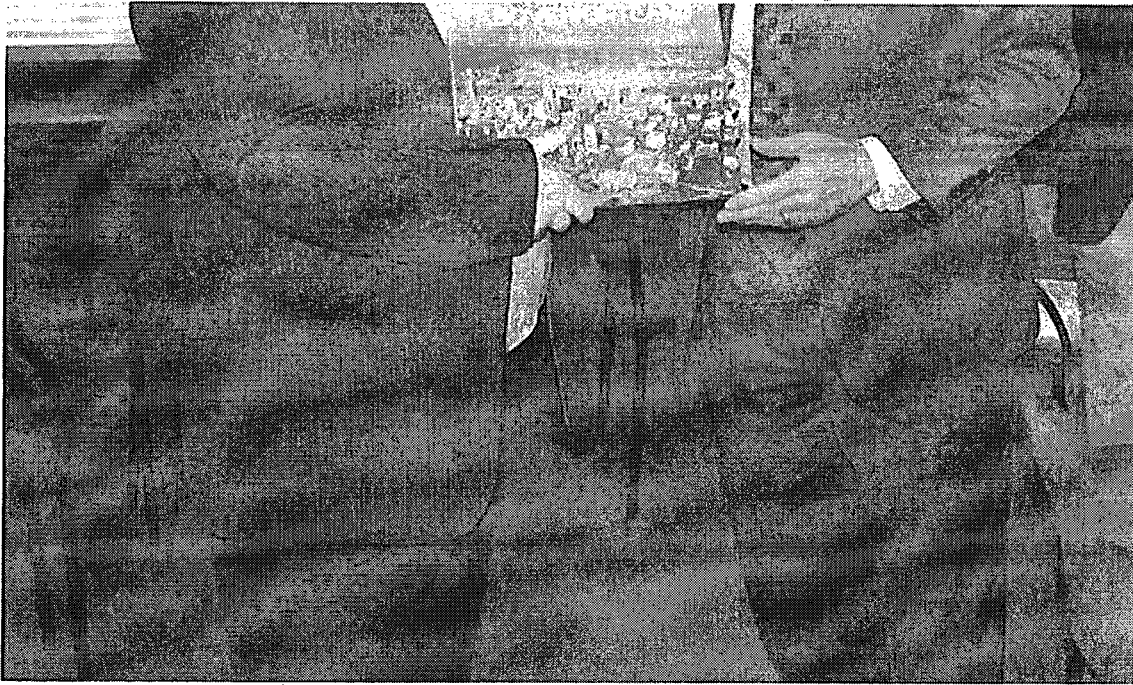


Sinn Féin Delegation Visits U.S. for Easter Commemorations



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Declan McAleer with Portland Mayor Charlie Hales

Declan McAleer

Declan McAleer Member of Legislative Assembly (MLA) representing West Tyrone, visited Portland, Oregon over the Easter weekend for the 98th anniversary of the 1916 Easter Rising in Ireland.

McAleer toured Portland and other parts of the Northwest taking a close look at some of the historical ties to Ireland in the Portland area.

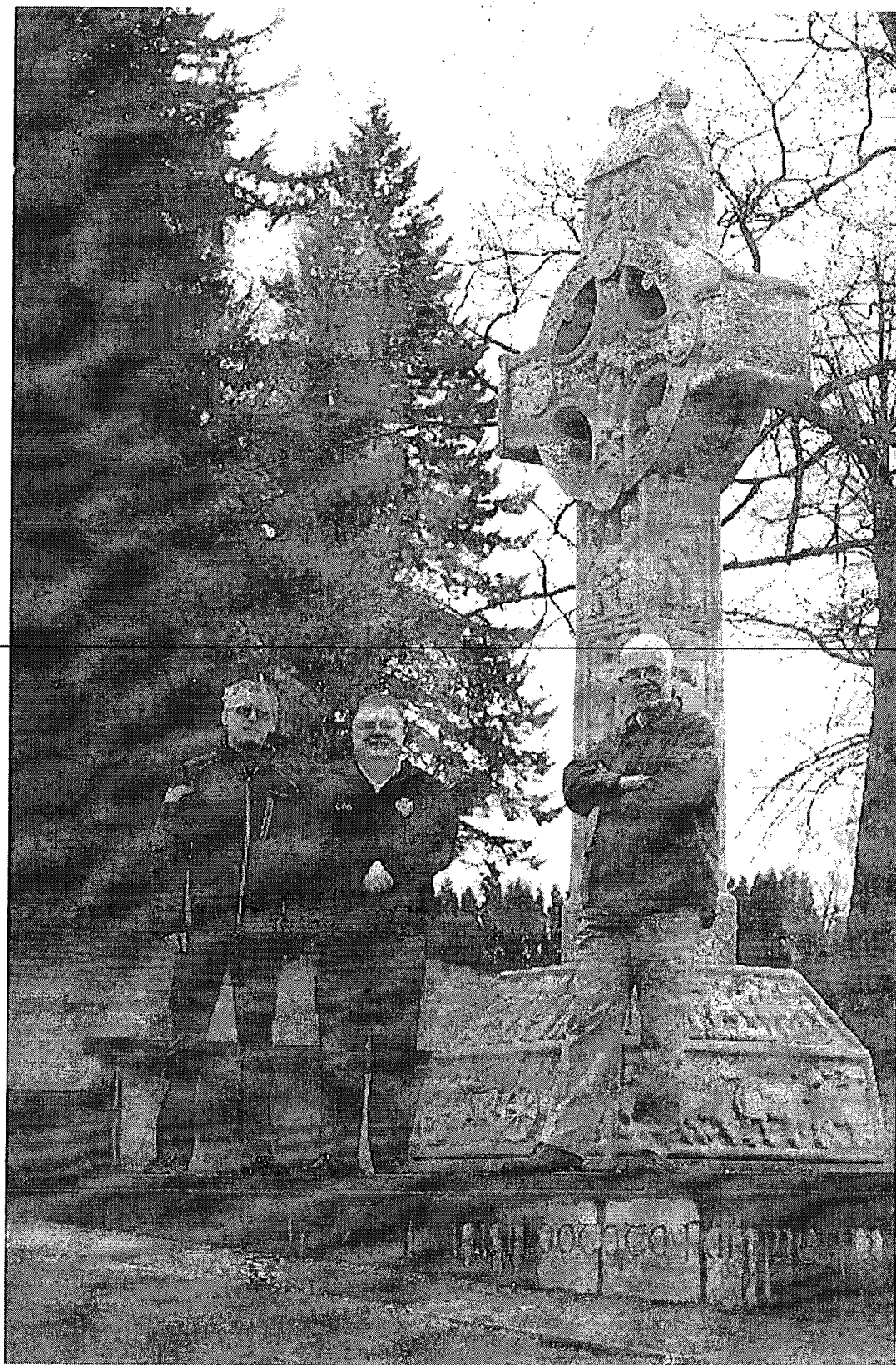
Mr. McAleer met with some key Portland leaders during his visit including Portland Mayor, Charlie Hales and State Representative 35th District, Margaret Doherty. He addressed a meeting at the law firm of Miller Nash where some of the lawyers have close ties to Ireland. He also met officials at Portland's Trimet Transportation Department.

On Easter Monday night, Declan spoke to a packed house at Kell's Restaurant in Downtown Portland. He discussed current political events in Ireland and reflected on the Easter Rising reminding the crowd that the 100th Anniversary is in two years time. He thanked the City of Portland for passing the Proclamation on Irish unity and asked that people continue to work in support of a United Ireland. Afterwards Declan

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took part in a Question and Answer session with the audience with many of the questions centering on the role of the Irish diaspora in America.



Declan McAleer with Portland AOH's David O'Longaigh and Chuck Duffy. At the Great Hunger Memorial in Mt. Calvary Cemetery- Portland, Oregon

Cara McShane

There was a fantastic turnout for the annual 1916 Rising at Holy Cross Cemetery outside of San Francisco on April 20th. The San Francisco event is always held at the grave of Fenian Organizer and former Sheriff of San Francisco Thomas Desmond. Desmond laid the groundwork for a daring escape from a British prison in Fremantle, Australia of Fenian prisoners who made their escape to the US on board the whaling ship "the Catalpa".

Attendees at the event heard from organizing committee member Ciaran Scally who spoke on the motivations of those who would invite a Monarch to the centenary celebrations of 1916 and how this was the antithesis of what the rising was about.

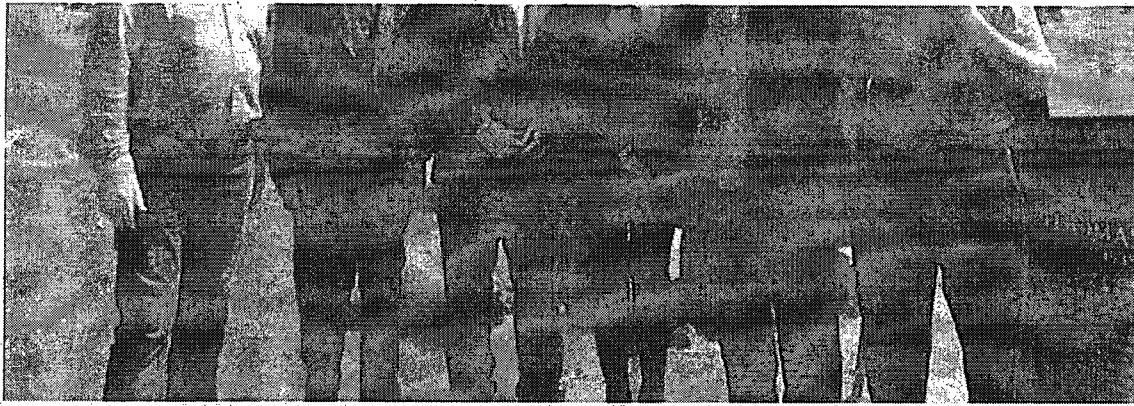
Phoblacht Na Eireann was read by Sean Murphy a wreath was laid at the grave in respect for all those who have given their lives in the pursuit of an all Ireland republic. A minutes silence was observed in respect of their sacrifice followed by a reading of a Bobby Sands poem by Seamus Canning.

Sinn Fein's Cara McShane, who is the Chairperson of Moyle Council in north Antrim Ireland was the Main speaker and gave an update on the Peace Process and the ongoing efforts of Sinn Fein in their pursuit of a united Ireland. The Pearse and Connolly Fife and Drum Band played the National Anthems of the USA and Ireland.



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Sinn Fein Moyle chairperson Cara McShane with Ciaran Scally Seamus Canning and the organizing committee at grave of Fenian organizer Thomas Desmond.

Sean Crowe

Sean Crowe Sinn Fein TD for Dublin South West, visited Chicago, and New York over the Easter weekend to participate in several Easter Commemorations.



Photo John O'Brien

L to R - Dermot Kelly, Deputy Consul General Peter Ryan, Lt. John McDonough (Brehons); Jennifer Frankola (Brehons), Brian O'Keefe (Brehons), Marty Glennon (Brehons), Rob Lynch (Brehons), Tom Lilly (Brehons), Sean Crowe, Sinn Fein TD

Other Easter Events

Sinn Fein's Michelle O'Neill MLA - Minister for Agriculture and Rural Development visited Philadelphia for Easter commemorations

Sinn Fein Councillor Caoimhín Mac Giolla Mhíon visited Cleveland and Cincinnati for Easter commemorations

More information / photos available upon request

Email FOSF USA's Conor Duffy conor.c.duffy@gmail.com

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Gerry Adams on Arrest

[Campaign Preview](#)

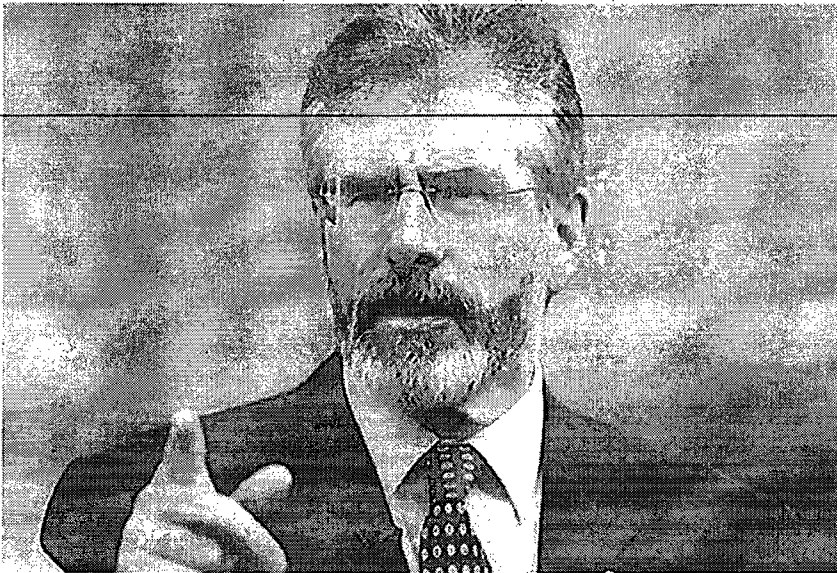
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Gerry Speaks to Media Regarding Recent Arrest

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Boston College Tapes flawed from beginning - Adams

Boston College Sinn Féin President Gerry Adams TD commenting on the announcement that Boston College is to return the tapes to those who made them said:

"Everyone has the right to record their history but not at the expense of the lives of

others.

The Boston College Belfast Project was flawed from the beginning. It was conceived by Lord Paul Bew. He proposed Ed Moloney and Anthony McIntyre despite the fact that both individuals were extremely hostile to myself, Sinn Fein, the peace process and the political process.

I was not and am not aware of any republican or member of Sinn Fein in support of the peace process who were approached by Anthony McIntyre to be interviewed. On the contrary, the individuals so far revealed as having participated are all hostile to Sinn Fein. On RTE last Sunday Anthony McIntyre was forced to concede that perhaps two out of the twenty-six people he interviewed were not anti-Sinn Fein.

This flawed project was exposed when Ed Moloney chose to capitalise on the death of Brendan Hughes and write a book called, 'Voices From The Grave'. No republicans, including myself, who were slandered in that book were offered the opportunity before publication to rebut the allegations made against them. Ed Moloney needs to explain that decision. He also needs to explain why, after the project officially closed, he returned to Ireland in 2011 and asked Dolours Price, whom he had currently described as mentally unwell and suffering from PTSD, to be interviewed on DVD, a DVD which he then lodged in the archive. It is that interview, Anthony McIntyre's interview with the late Brendan Hughes and his interview with Ivor Bell, which formed the mainstay for my arrest last week.

I welcome the end of the Boston Belfast Project, indicated by the College's offer to now return the interviews to the interviewees before the securocrats who cannot live with the peace seek to seize the rest of the archive and do mischief.

Two standards are operating here. No British soldiers or former RUC officers involved in killings or conspiracies or collusion are subject to the same treatment as republicans. Once again this emphasises why we need to deal holistically with our past and why we need a process such as those proposed by Richard Haass and Meghan O'Sullivan. ENDS/CRÍOCH

**WATCH VIDEO OF GERRY ADAMS
ADDRESSING MEIDA AFTER RELEASE CLICK
BELOW**

VIDEO OF PRESS CONFERENCE

Gerry Adams Speech at Press Conference Following His Release

Full Text:

Sinn Féin President Gerry Adams TD remarks to a Press Conference in Balmoral Hotel, west Belfast, following his release from Antrim PSNI station. These remarks were written in Antrim PSNI station.

Sinn Féin President Gerry Adams TD said:

"Chuaigh mé fhéin chuig an bheairic in Aontroim.

Mar sin níl mé ag gearán faoi sin. Ach bhí rogha ag na péas.

Ní raibh mé ag lorg príbhléid speisialta ar bith.

Ach tá sé go han-tábhachtach go bhfuil daoine sásta go bhfuil na póilíní ag obair go cothrom.

Tá a fhios agam go bhfuil Jean McConville agus a clann ag croílár tragóide.

Tá mise agus Sinn Féin ag déanamh ár ndícheall chun éagóir a chur i gceart.

Tá muid ag tógáil na síochána, ag iarraidh í a chur chun tosaigh.

Míle buíochas do na daoine a chuir beannachtaí do Colette agus dár gclann, do chomrádaithe i Sinn Féin agus do chairde eile.

Is léir go bhfuil naimhde phróiseas na síochána ag obair go fóill.

Ach ní bheidh an bua acu.

Tá muintir na tíre ar bhóthar na síochána agus i dtreo sochaí níos feara. Tá sé de cheart acu.

I came voluntarily from the Dáil in Dublin to Antrim PSNI barracks last Wednesday having contacted the PSNI two months ago through my solicitor Seamus Collins, to

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tell them that I was available to meet them following yet another spate of media speculation, part of a sustained malicious, untruthful and sinister campaign alleging involvement by me in the killing of Mrs Jean McConville.

When the PSNI contacted my solicitor on Monday afternoon I was concerned about the timing, given that Sinn Féin is involved in very important EU and local government elections across the island of Ireland.

But I quickly made arrangements to come here and I left Leinster House – the Oireachtas – and Leaders Questions with the Taoiseach to do so.

I want to thank my solicitor Mr. Seamus Collins for his diligence and professional approach and his colleague Eugene McKenna.

I also want to thank everyone who has sent goodwill messages to Colette and our family and to my comrades in Sinn Féin for their solidarity.

Tá mé fíor bhuíoch daoibhse uilig.

I am conscious that there is another family at the heart of this. That is the family of Mrs Jean McConville.

Let me be very clear. I am innocent of any involvement in any conspiracy to abduct, kill and bury Mrs McConville.

I have worked hard with others to have this injustice redressed and for the return of the bodies of others killed and secretly buried by the IRA and I will continue to do so.

The Commission set up by the two governments at the request of myself, and the late Fr Alex Reid, has said that it is receiving 100% support from republicans.

Martin McGuinness and I were actually to meet the Commission around this time as part of this work.

I am mindful also that tomorrow is the anniversary of the death on hunger strike of H Block martyr Bobby Sands MP.

Sitting in my cell here in recent days I reflected on that and on the dreadful summer of 1981.

Of course this is not 1981 or 1972.

The people of this island – with a few exceptions, have carved out a new dispensation.

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So while the past needs to be dealt with – and Sinn Féin is up for doing this – including the issue of victims and their families, there can be no going back.

Peace needs to be built with determination and a consistent focus.

That remains my intention and is Sinn Féin's constant endeavour.

I bear no animosity to anyone. I have no wish to be treated differently from anyone else.

I am an activist – this is my life and I am philosophical and I understand that I have detractors and opponents.

I especially understand that there are sinister elements, who are against the changes Sinn Féin and others are committed to achieving.

I did not come here expecting special treatment but it is crucial that everyone is treated fairly. I seek fair treatment not only for myself but because it is crucially important that everyone knows that these are changed times, that they can and will be treated fairly and that we can all have hope and confidence in the new developing dispensation, including the police service.

To send any other signal is to encourage the bigots.

So I make the case that those who authorised my arrest and detention could have done it differently.

They had discretion.

They did not have to use pernicious coercive legislation to deal with a legacy issue – even one as serious as this, which I was voluntarily prepared to deal with.

They did not have to do this in the middle of an election campaign.

Remember I contacted them two months ago.

Despite this I want to make it clear that I support the PSNI.

I will continue to work with others to build a genuinely civic policing service.

The old guard which is against change whether in the PSNI leadership, within unionism or the far fringes of republicanism, or the Dark Side of the British system cannot be allowed to deny any of the people – Protestant, Catholic or Dissenter – from our entitlement to a rights-based, citizen-centred society as set out in the Good Friday Agreement.

I am an Irish republican.

I want to live in a peaceful Ireland based on equality.

I have never disassociated myself from the IRA and I never will but I am glad that I, and others, have created a peaceful and democratic way forward for everyone.

The IRA is gone.

During my interrogations much was made by my interrogators about my time in the Civil Rights struggle in the 1960s, my arrest and detention in Palace Barracks, in Long Kesh and in the peace talks in 1972.

Newspaper articles, photographs of Martin McGuinness and I at Republican funerals, books and other open source material were used as the basis of the accusations made against me.

Much of the interrogations concerned the so-called Belfast Project conceived by Paul Bew, University lecturer and a former advisor to former Unionist leader David Trimble, and run by Ed Moloney and Anthony McIntyre as part of Boston College.

Both Moloney and McIntyre are opponents of the Sinn Féin leadership and our ~~peace strategy and have interviewed former republicans who are also hostile to me~~ and other Sinn Féin leaders.

These former republicans have accused us of betrayal and sell-out and have said we should be shot because of our support for the Good Friday Agreement and policing.

The allegation of conspiracy in the killing of Mrs McConville is based almost exclusively on hearsay from unnamed alleged Boston College interviewees but mainly from Dolours Price and Brendan Hughes.

Other anonymous alleged Belfast Project interviewees were identified only by a letter of the alphabet, eg interview R or Y.

One of these is claimed by the PSNI to be Ivor Bell although the interrogators told me he has denied the allegations.

I rejected all the allegations made about me in the Boston Tapes.

Finally, let me be clear. There is only one way for our society to go and that is forward.

Yes deal with the past. Yes deal with victims but the focus needs to be on the future.

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That is the road we are on. There will be bumps in that road. There will be diversions.

Obstacles will be erected.

We know that.

I thank everyone for their support.

I extend sympathy to the McConville family and all those who have suffered especially at the hands of republicans.

My resolve remains as strong as ever. It is to build the peace and see off the sinister forces, who are against equality and justice for everyone. ENDS/CRÍOCH

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Reaction to Gerry Adams Arrest

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-Martin McGuinness Statement

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=pfmW49Tg7KA&feature=youtu.be>

May 2nd 2014

PSNI cabal-agenda negative and destructive – McGuinness

Deputy First Minister Martin McGuinness MLA has accused the British government and elements of a "negative and destructive political agenda".

Mr. McGuinness said:

"Yesterday I said that the timing of the arrest of Gerry Adams was politically motivated.

Today's decision by the PSNI to seek an extension confirms me in my view.

The arrest of Gerry Adams at this time is inextricably linked to the Local Government and EU agenda. This island is three weeks

across this island in three weeks.

Sinn Féin fully supports the fair and democratic implementation of policing and justice but it is the PSNI – what some in that force have described to us as the Dark Side – who continue to process agenda and are involved in political policing.

Peter Robinson has said that if the police have evidence and don't act on it that this would be The British Secretary of State claims that no one should be above the law.

I agree with both statements but the reality is much different.

There is clear evidence of political policing and of the difference of approach and treatment to members or former members of British state forces and those who are republican and national.

For example: the British Parachute Regiment murdered 14 people on the streets of Derry in 1972. Who did this. Have they acted on this evidence? No. Is this political policing? Yes it is.

The PSNI know who killed 11 civilians in Ballymurphy in 1971. Not one has been arrested. Is it?

Last week Theresa Villiers told the Ballymurphy families there would be no review of their case. Yes it is.

The British Government refuses to provide information and evidence it has on the Dublin/Monaghan citizens. Is this political interference in the justice system? Yes it is.

In a key note speech two weeks ago, the British Secretary of State criticized what she described as state killings. Is this political interference in policing and the justice system? Yes it is.

The indisputable fact is that for 40 years there has been a virtual amnesty for British state forces both directly and through state collusion with unionist death squads.

There are many progressive and open-minded elements in the new policing arrangements who support fair and impartial policing.

I want to emphasize my absolute support for them in their efforts to deliver impartial and accountable policing.

But there is a small cabal in the PSNI who have a different agenda – a negative and destructive process and to Sinn Féin.

Sinn Féin under the leadership of Gerry Adams will not allow these elements to succeed.

-Congressman Richard Neal

<http://www.businessinsider.com/congressman-addresses-murder-allegation-sinn-fein-leader-c>

-Congressman Peter King

New York Congressman Peter King said Adams played an important role in the Northern Ireland

"He was more instrumental than anyone (to peace in Northern Ireland,)" said King. "The political is growing tension in Northern Ireland anyway ... this will only add to it."

King added, "There are several ironies in all of this. If it is based on the Boston College tapes hardliner making these allegations."

"I've known Gerry Adams over 30 years. I've never known him not to tell the truth, you may not always be truthful. George Mitchell, Bill Clinton and Tony Blair, amongst others always said they told the word," King said, referring to the more than four-year-long process during which the Irish peace came out.

"He never promised more than he delivered. He did this all at considerable risk," King added, in brokering peace when hardline members of the IRA refused to put down their guns.

<http://www.nbcnews.com/news/world/sinn-fein-leader-gerry-adams-arrested-over-jean-mcconn>

-New York Times

http://www.nytimes.com/2014/05/02/world/europe/a-heinous-crime-secret-histories-and-arrest.html?_r=0

-The Boston Globe

<http://www.bostonglobe.com/metro/2014/05/01/boston-college-ensnared-ireland-attempt-peace/vDh3nBD1w06Mx86Nxf5TTO/story.html>

http://www.bostonglobe.com/metro/2014/05/01/gerry-adams-arrest-jolts-backers-boston/zNnSmWvRnvkTVqLPsPewBM/story.html?rss_id=Top-GNP

11/12/2014

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-Boston Herald / Congressman Stephen F Lynch

http://bostonherald.com/news_opinion/columnists/peter_gelzinis/2014/05/gelzinis_worl

-CNN

<http://edition.cnn.com/2014/05/01/world/europe/boston-northern-ireland/>

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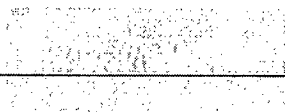
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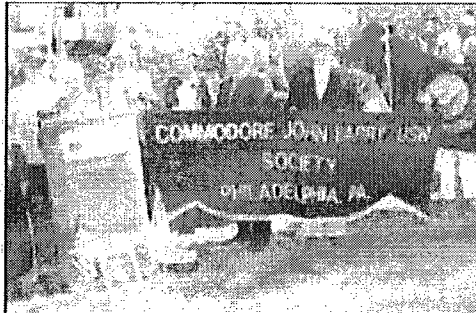
Commodore Barry Club attend Philly dedication

The Commodore Barry Club of Brooklyn traveled to Philadelphia recently to participate in the dedication of an official Historical Marker honoring Commodore John Barry, first flag officer of the American Navy. Over the last few years, the club has supported the project.

The Pennsylvania Historical and Museum Commission sponsored the marker at Penn's Landing, South Columbus Boulevard and Dock Street.

Rev. Daniel Ruff, S. J. blessed the marker. Speakers at the gathering included Richard Sand, Esq. of the Commission, Hon. Mark Squilla of the Philadelphia City Council, Celeste A. Morello, nominator of the marker, John M. Elliott, Esq. of Elliott Greenleaf, Mary Nolan of the Commodore Barry Club, Francesca O'Brien of the Navy League, and John Brady, President of the Independence Seaport Museum.

Meanwhile, the club is holding its Annual Social and Dance on Sunday, Nov. 16, 4 to 8 p.m. at St. Patrick's auditorium, 97th Street and 4th Avenue in Brooklyn. Frank Keegan and Mary G. will entertain with both Irish and American tunes. Tickets are \$25 per person. More details at (718) 333-3405 or at www.commodorebarryclubbrooklyn.org.



Commodore Barry Club President Mary Nolan. PHOTOS BY PAUL GLENN.



The Commodore Barry Club of Brooklyn and the Commodore John Barry U.S. Navy Society promoted the new marker.



Francesca O'Brien speaks. Joan Meinert is to her left and Mary Nolan and John Houlihan to her right.



Joan Meinert, John Barry Kelly, a Barry family member, in period costume, and John Elliott.



Friends of
Sinn Féin
USA

Annual New York Dinner

Gerry Adams TD
President of Sinn Féin

Also Speaking:
Mary Lou McDonald, TD for Dublin Central,
Vice President Sinn Féin


Pearse Doherty, TD Donegal South West,
Sinn Féin Finance Spokesperson

Thursday, November 6, 2014

Sheraton Hotel
811 Seventh Avenue at 53rd St.
Metropolitan Ballroom, New York, NY 10019
Cocktails at 6:00 PM, Dinner at 7:00 PM
\$500 per person

For Information: (212) 297-6107
or email: conor.c.duffy@gmail.com

Friends of Sinn Féin, Inc.
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IRISH LABOR 50TH ANNIVERSARY

Honoring Irish America's labor legacy

The contribution of the Irish in America to the cause of labor has been nothing less than immense. Indeed, it could be argued that the American labor movement would not exist at all in its current form without the efforts of the standout Irish men and women through the years. It is with both immigrant arrivals and American born in mind that

the Irish Echo is hosting an event November 7th at The Edison Ballroom. This year we will be honoring 50 Irish-American men and women in today's labor movement, while at the same time reflecting on the work of those historical giants who paved the way to labor's central role in contemporary American life.

#LABOR50

AWARDS BANQUET Friday, November 7th, 2014

6:00pm - 10:00pm

The Edison Ballroom

40 West 47th Street • New York, NY 10036

(West 47th Street, between 7th & 8th Avenues)

Guest Speaker: Gerry Adams, T.D.

Special Guest Speaker: Terry O'Sullivan, LIUNA General President

Advertising and

Sponsorship Opportunities: Mairéad Tully

11 Hanover Square, Suite 500,
New York, NY 10005

Tel: 212-482-4818 Ext. 113

Email: mtully@irishecho.com

RSVP: Tracey Quilligan

Tel: 212.482.4818 Ext. 112 • Email: tquilligan@irishecho.com



WWW.IRISHECHO.COM/LABOR50

Echo Event Listings Tristate / New York / New Jersey / Connecticut

There is a charge of \$15 per listing, per week, in our events section, (five line maximum-150 characters). Visa, M.C, Amex, Check or M.O. accepted. Fax or E-mail as follows: Fax: (212) 482-6569; e-mail to mrayward@irishecho.com or call Maureen Rayward (212) 482-4818 or 1-888-447-4743 (ext. 124) for further information. **SPOTLIGHT EVENTS:** \$25 (small - 1 inch box), \$40 (medium - 1-1/2 inch box), \$50 (large - 2-1/2 inch box). To book spotlight events / special packages, contact Mairead Tully at 212-482-4818 ext. 113. mtully@irishecho.com

FIRST RESPONDERS 2014 - The Irish Echo will host **FIRST RESPONDERS 2014** on Friday, October 31st from 6pm-9pm, at Rosie O'Grady's Manhattan Club, 800 7th Ave., New York, NY. For tickets call Tracey at (212) 482-4818 or tracey@irishecho.com. For advertising or sponsorship packages contact Mairead at (212) 482-4818 or mtully@irishecho.com. Nominate here <http://irishecho.com/2014/07/first-responders-nomination/>

IRISH LABOR 100 2014 - The Irish Echo will host **IRISH LABOR 100 2014**, honoring Irish America's labor legacy on Nov. 7, 2014. Awards Banquet on Friday, November 7th, 2014, 6-8PM at The Edison Ballroom, 240 West 47th Street, NYC. (West 47th Street, between 7th & 8th Avenues). Guest Speaker: Gerry Adams, I.D. Advertising and Sponsorship Opportunities: Mairead Tully (212) 482-4818 Ext. 113. Email: mtully@irishecho.com. RSVP: Tracey Quilligan (212) 482-4818 Ext. 112. Email: tquilligan@irishecho.com

Ireland's Great Hunger Museum at Quinnipiac University, located at 3001 Whitney Ave., Hamden, CT. For details visit www.ighm.org or call (203) 582-8655. The Spring 2014 Program Schedule of Events is now available online.

Conference

Belfast Homecoming-One City Conference will be held September 24-26, 2014. Highlights will be: September 24: Pop-Up Banquet, Titanic Drawing Rooms. September 25: Visit to An Chul tuinn, Gaeltacht Quarter. Official Opening of Duncairn Culture and Arts Centre. September 26: Conference Plenary at Titanic Belfast. For further details see www.aisling-events.com

Mass and Spiritual Events

The Sunday Mass is available on the following TV Channels: Channel 5, WNYW-TV 5:30 a.m.; WLNJ Channel 10/55 9 a.m.; The Net (formerly The Prayer Channel) on Time Warner Channel 97 and Cablevision Channel 30 @ 6 pm on Saturday.

Our Lady of Knock Celebration will be held on Saturday, August 16 at Holy Name Church, 245 Prospect Park West, Brooklyn, NY. 5:00 PM. The Rosary and Crowning of Our Lady of Knock; 5:30 PM. Mass followed by Rose Laying at Unborn. Memorial near church steps. Refreshments and Knock Video Showing in Shepherd's Hall.

Special Event

Maryland 400 Commemoration will be held on Sunday, August 17 at 2:00PM. At Michael A. Rawley, Jr. American Legion Post #1636, 193 9th Street, Brooklyn, NY. (Burial site of the Maylanders). Followed by Memorial March to The Old Stone House in Washington Park, 5th Avenue and 3rd Street (Battle Site). Opening Ceremony for "1776 Battle Week."

Fundraiser/Benefit

Goal USA 2014 Benefit Ball will be held on Friday, October 17 at Gotham Hall, 1356 Broadway, NYC. Secure a table and celebrate GOAL's lifesaving work around the world. Information: Elaine, 212-831-

7420/eryankennedy@us.goat.ie

Sponsor a Shamrock Help raise money for our festival and new club house. All requests must be made by the Aug 26th general meeting. Forms will be available to fill out at the July, and August meetings. Any questions, please contact Kevin Kiely at kovinkie@shoglobal.net or Hilary Schorsch at h.schorsch2000@yahoo.com. Also see Festival Information on our website www.milfordirish.org

Children's Programs

The Irish Arts Center located at 553 W. 51st St., NYC, offers programs for children including Irish Dancing, Celtic Harp and Gaelic Kids. See www.irishartscenter.org

Workshops

Cork Craft Month will be held from August 5 to September 5 2014. For a full schedule of events, dates and times see www.corkcraftanddesign.com or follow Facebook or Twitter @corkcraftdesign.

Information Sought

Exhibition - Do you know anyone who emigrated from Co. Cavan? Cavan County Museum is currently working on an exhibition and looking for photos, tickets, letters and any other memorabilia associated with emigration. Our exhibition covers emigration in the past but also up to the present. If you have any items that would be relevant please contact the museum on 011-353-49-854070 or cmuseum@eircom.net

The Donegal County Council and the Donegal County Heritage Forum have joined with The Heritage Council to find out more about what Donegal people took with them when they emigrated to various parts of the world throughout the centuries. The Co. Donegal Heritage Office will publish a booklet based on the information collected and are keen to have people contribute their own stories about the items that their family took with them. This may include objects such as suitcases, their contents, small household items, tools, religious artifacts and photographs that people took with them at the time of their migration or letters that people sent home. If you would like to share your own family's story or participate in this wonderful project please contact the County Donegal Heritage Office by e-mail at: heritage@donegalcoco.ie or by telephone at (074) 91 72576. For further information see website at www.donegalcoco.ie/heritage

An Siopa Leabhar or-line go for-luath at www.cnag.ie

For details of events at **Glucksman Ireland House** at NYU (readings, talks, lectures, film screenings, concerts and workshops), visit www.irelandhouse.fas.nyu.edu or call (212) 998-3850.

Picnic

IAS First Annual Picnic - The Irish American Society in Mineola will hold a picnic at Eisenhower Park on Sunday, August 17, 1-6pm. Adm. \$15 per person; \$10 per student/child or \$40 family. Includes beer, soda and

food, games, contests, music for the entire family. Details, (516) 746-9392.

Music/Concert

Irish Night at Eisenhower Park will be held on Monday, August 4 at 7:30pm. Free to all. Details (516) 746-9392

Mid-Summer Breeze at Irish Center in Mineola, 207 Willis Ave., on Sunday, August 10 at 5pm. Featuring music, dance, songs and stories with Sean Quinn, James Keane and friends. Complimentary finger food, tea, coffee and scones. Adm: \$20. Further info at (516) 746-9392.

Ronan Tynan Concert - On August 16, Ronan Tynan will appear in concert at Ocean Grove Great Auditorium, Ocean Grove, NJ. Info: (732) 775-0035.

Celtic Twilight Christmas - Phil Coulter and Andy Cooney will present a Celtic Twilight Christmas at Carnegie Hall on Monday, Dec. 8. For information call (516) 798-3014 or email: millpondmusic@aol.com

Language/Music

Irish Arts Center Fall Classes - The Fall season of classes now on sale at Irish Arts Center. Offering over 40 classes in Irish Language, Music and Dance for all levels. Term starts Sept. 15 and runs for eight weeks. Register online or call 866-811-4111 thru July 31. Not all classes will be held at IAC. Check locations at www.irishartscenter.org or call (212) 757-3318.

Gaeltacht Week - Dail na Gaeltache will hold a Gaeltacht Week, immersion course in the Irish Language, from Sunday, Aug. 24 through Saturday, Aug. 30 at Marist Brothers Retreat Center, 1455 Broadway, Rte. 9W, Escopus, NY. See www.dailna.com or call 732-571-1988.

MA in Irish and Irish-American Studies at NYU's Glucksman Ireland House. New scholarships available for MA in Irish and Irish American Studies in the following fields: Irish Literature, Irish History, Irish Music and Cultural Studies, Irish American Studies, Digital Scholarship. See www.irelandhouse.as.nyu.edu/

The Emerald Isle Immigration Center, Katonah Ave., Woodlawn offers Irish language classes on Mondays for beginners (8:30am) and advanced (10:30am). For further information call (718) 324-3039 ext. 101.

Irish Language classes for adults and children are now available at the New York Irish Center, 1040 Jackson Ave., Queens, NY. For more info. Email: Gaelic4Kids@NewYorkIrishCenter.org Family discounts available.

Irish Language classes at all levels are now available at Glucksman Ireland House Details, (212) 477-6177 or po2@nyu.edu

The Gerry Tobin Irish Language School is holding a new semester of free Irish language classes on Wednesdays at AOH Hall 27 Locust Ave, Babylon, NY. Details at www.scollgaile.org or call (631) 521-1227.

Philo Celtic Society - The 20 Month Strategy for the Irish Language is now available from The Philo-Celtic

Society at <http://philoceltic.com/20-month-strategy-for-the-irish-language.html>

Cruises/Travel

For the latest information on Andy Cooney's concerts, trips, cruises and recordings visit: www.andycooney.com

Andy Cooney's Cruise schedule for 2014 includes Canadian Irish Party Cruise; September 20-27. Call Travel Professionals 800-724-9511 or travelpro@warwick.net

Andy Cooney All Star Cruise of Irish Stars to the Western Caribbean - Andy announces his star-studded Irish party cruise of the year - Western Caribbean Cruise of Irish Stars, January 18-25, 2015 featuring Andy Cooney and his Band, Ronan Tynan, Mike Denver and his Band, Paddy Noonan, Kathy and Andreas Durkin, John Whelan & The Cape May Celtic Band and many more Irish stars. Details, Travel Professionals 800-724-9511 or travelpro@warwick.net

Andy Cooney's Musical Tour of Ireland 2014 takes place October 6-16. For further information and reservations call Caddie Tours at 1-866-387-6759 or mail@caddietoursonline.com

Paddy Noonan's Caribbean Sunrise Cruise will be held August 14-23. Roundtrip from Port Liberty, Bayonne, NJ aboard Royal Caribbean's Explorer of the Seas. Musical guests will include Jimmy Walsh, Tommy Mulvihill and PJ Cardinal. For information and reservations call 1-516-624-6699 or Seanchie@travel@aol.com

Gertrude Byrne Promotions All Star Irish Caribbean Charter Cruise February 7-14, 2015, featuring Ireland's superstar Daniel O'Donnell and many more Irish stars. For information call 1-800-356-4713 or 1-561-852-6376.

Festivals/Feiseanna

AOH Long Island Fels - The Ancient Order of Hibernians, Div. 8 & 9 will hold its 46th Long Island Fels on Sunday, August 3 at Stony Brook University, Student Activities Center, Stony Brook, NY. Events include Irish Dance Competition, Open Championship; Art, Essay, Singing, Irish Language and Soda Bread Competitions. The Fels starts at 8:30 A.M. Adm. is \$12 per adult (includes parking and programs); children admitted free. Further information please call (631) 736-2171 See www.LongIslandFels.org

The 26th Annual East Durham Irish Fels will be held Saturday, August 23, 2014. Go to www.mjirishcentre.com for more information.

L.I. Scottish Festival and Highland Games - The Long Island Scottish Festival and Highland Games will be held on August 23 at Old Westbury Gardens, 71 Old Westbury Road, Old Westbury, NY. Details at (516) 333-0048.

Radio

The Celtic Heritage Hour with Joe Brennan Vogel Sundays 8 to 10 a.m. at 89.5 WSOU Seton Hall Radio. Details, (973) 761-9769.

The Leitrim Cell will be broadcast on Tuesday at 8 p.m., and repeats

The 1916 Proclamation: The American Connections

Professor Ruan O'Donnell

6:30 PM Tuesday, August 5th

The New York Irish Center
1040 Jackson Avenue,
LIC (Queens), NY 11101
One Stop, 5 Minutes on the
7 train from Grand Central.

First for by Republic of Ireland, the 1916 Proclamation was signed in Dublin, Ireland. This year marks the centenary of the signing of the Proclamation. The Proclamation is a key document in Irish history and is a symbol of Irish independence. It is a document that has inspired generations of Irish people and is a source of pride for all Irish people. The Proclamation is a document that is a testament to the Irish people's struggle for independence and is a document that is a source of inspiration for all Irish people.

on Wednesday at 4PM on 90.5 FM, WHPC. The station of Nassau Community College. Details, (516) 572-7438.

WFUV 90.7 FM presents the following programs: Saturdays, 8-9 a.m. "Mide Faltie," 9 am to Noon "A Thousand Welcomes" Noon to 1 p.m., "Thistle and Shamrock" with Fiona Ritchie. On Sundays, Cool na Gael is broadcast from Noon to 4PM. Details, (718) 817-4550.

The "Irish Hour" airs over WKNY 1490 AM every Sunday from 8 to 9 a.m. Sponsored by AOH Div. I, Ulster County. Listen live at www.wkny1490am.com on Sundays.

Raidio Fáilte is now available worldwide on the internet. Details www.raidiofailte.com and press "Eist" or "Listen" to hear Belfast's only Irish language radio station. The first Irish language station in the North of Ireland includes music, Gaelic, Scottish, folk, traditional and world music as well as news, chat, language lessons and craic. Email office@raidiofailte.com or Tel. 011-447726572357.

"A Drop of the Irish" airs on WBQ 110 AM in Orange County NY, every Sunday at Noon and repeats Saturdays at 6 p.m. Also online at www.wbq.com Host, Paul Byrne. Details, (845) 800-2124.

WRIU 88.7 The Long Ireland Show, hosted by Eileen Cronin airs on Saturdays 2-5 pm on WRIU 88.7 FM Radio Hofstra University, Hempstead, NY. Featuring county interviews, trivia and Irish music. From 5-8pm on Saturdays Kevin Westley hosts "That's How I Spell Ireland." Tune in for live webcast at www.wriu.org

The "Voice of Erin" radio show is broadcast on Sundays at 4:30 pm, on New York's WRTN 93.5 FM www.radioerin.com

Ireland Calls "Ireland Calls" a music and news summary from Ireland is co-hosted by Tommy Smyth and Treasa Goodwin and is broadcast on Saturdays at 6 pm over WVOX 1480 AM. Now available on the internet, log onto www.wvox.com and click on listen live.

"Ireland Then and Now" Kean University's radio 90.3 WKNU-FM hosted by Ed Callaghan and Fred Marder on Tuesdays from 4 to 6 p.m. Details, (903) 737-3949 or

Continued on Page 24

The Kerry Hall
305 McLean Ave., Yonkers, NY
(914) 964-2100

Saturday, July 26
Direct From Ireland
SEAN WILSON

Saturday, August 16
SHARON & PAT

Dancing from 8:30 PM till 12:30 AM

Free Parking Available!
For information, please call
(914) 964-2100

IRISH AMERICAN SOCIETY OF NEW YORK, INC.
237 W. 14th Avenue, Mineola, New York 11040

Monday, August 4:
Irish Night At Eisenhower Park
7:30 PM. Free for all

Friday, August 8: CARD GAME 8 PM

Sunday, August 10: MIDSUMMER BREEZE
5 PM • \$20 • Music, Songs, Dance and Stories
Featuring SEAN QUINN, JAMES KEANE and friends
Complimentary finger food, tea, coffee and scones

Sunday, August 17, 1-6 PM: Join us for our
1st Annual Picnic at Eisenhower Park
\$15 per person \$10 per student/child or avoid of our \$40 family rate.
Includes beer, soda, food • Games, contests, music for the entire family

GAA Games LIVE on our BIG Screen

Saturday, July 26:	Sunday, July 27:
Noon: Football	9 AM: Hurling
CORK VS. SLIGO	LIMERICK VS. WEXFORD
2 PM: Football	11 AM: Hurling
GALWAY VS. TIPPERARY	TIPPERARY VS. DUBLIN

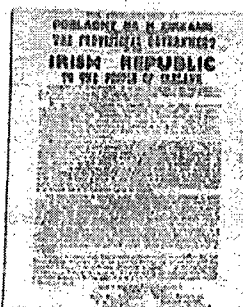
Senior Social Club Every Monday 12-3 PM, All Welcome
(516) 746-9392 or (516) 742-8080 Fax: (516) 742-7086
Email: IrishAmericanSocietyNY@gmail.com
WWW.IRISHAMERICANSOC.COM • Patrick Kearney, President

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914-423-1234
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ay, July 26:
Gold
30 pm

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Professor Ruan O'Donnell Will Speak About



The
1916 Proclamation:
The American
Connections

6:30 PM
Tuesday, August 5th

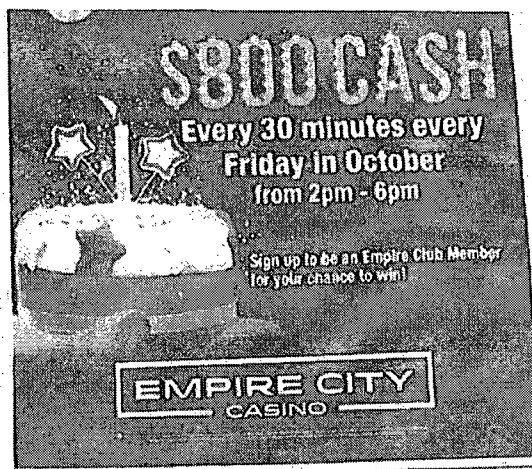
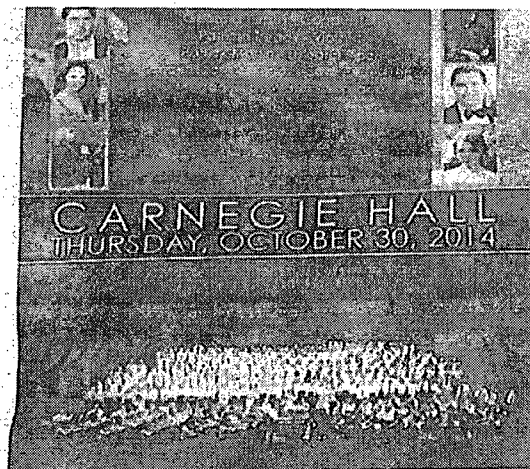
The New York Irish Center
1040 Jackson Avenue, LIC (Queens), NY 11101
One Stop, 5 Minutes on the 7 train from Grand Central.

RSVP to Conor Duffy: conor.c.duffy@gmail.com

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hCentral @IrishCentral

IRISH VOICE, Wed., July 23, 2014 – Tues., August 12, 2014



Friends of
Sinn Féin USA

Annual New York Dinner

Thursday, November 6, 2014

Cocktails 6 PM • Dinner 7 PM

SHERATON NEW YORK HOTEL

811 Seventh Avenue at 53rd Street • Metropolitan Ballroom • New York, New York 10019

For tickets: **212-297-6107**

\$500 Per Person

MAIN SPEAKER:

Gerry Adams TD

President of Sinn Féin

Also Speaking:

MARY LOU McDONALD

TD for Dublin Central

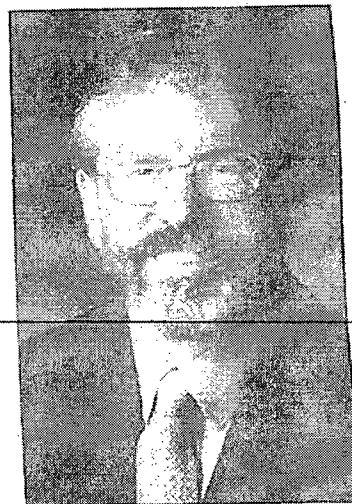
Vice President Sinn Féin

Dublin Central

PEARSE DOHERTY

TD Donegal South West

Sinn Féin Liaison/Spokesperson



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IRISH VOICE, Wed., October 15, 2014 - Tues., October 21, 2014

WEDNESDAY • OCTOBER 29
COMEDY NIGHT
HUGHIE KELLY LIVE
THURSDAYS
TRIBUTE BAND THURSDAYS
OCTOBER 30 • 8PM & 10PM
KIDS ALIVE • A TRIBUTE TO KISS
FRIDAYS
5TH ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATION
FRIDAY 11/15/14 8PM & 10PM
HOT SEAT DRAWINGS 8PM-9PM
SATURDAYS
WAKE UP AND WIN! 8AM-12PM
EMPIRE CITY CASINO

robust revival
entire & elegiac
pitch-perfect
funny and poignant
At the DR2 Theatre
105 East 15th Street
IrishRep.org
212-727-2737
Now November 16th



Annual New York Dinner

Thursday, November 6, 2014

Cocktails 6 PM • Dinner 7 PM

SHERATON NEW YORK HOTEL

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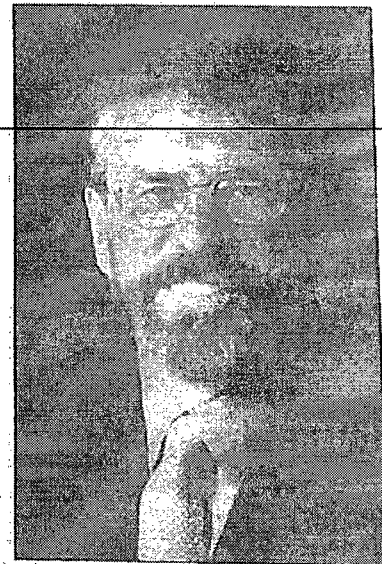
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Vice President Sinn Féin
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IRISH VOICE, Wed., October 29, 2014 - Tues., November 4, 2014